

The Journal

Volume XII, No. 26

Thursday, February 26, 1998

50 cents (Tax included)

North Checking Out

Albany transportation plan
Residents are encouraged to express concerns about transportation needs issues, traffic and safety at Albany's public meeting on its Citywide Transportation Plan on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Input at the Transportation and Safety Commission-hosted meeting will be used in developing the plan. Details: 528-5760.

think globally, act artfully
If you want to enter El Cerrito's seventh annual EarthDay '98 Art Exhibition, you should start work on your masterpiece now. Entries will be accepted March 30 and April 10. The theme is "Responsibility with Nature and the Environment," and works should demonstrate respect for nature and reflect concern for the future of the Earth and its inhabitants. Entry forms with complete details are available at the El Cerrito Recycling Center on Schmidt Lane, or at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave.

General Plan needs you
The El Cerrito City Council is looking for interested citizens to serve on a General Plan Process Team. The team will serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council regarding public participation in the General Plan update. Interested individuals may obtain an application at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave., between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., and 4 p.m. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m., March 9. The City Council is planning to conduct interviews on Monday evening, March 9, and make appointments at the City Council meeting of March 16.

Grade parent night
Parents of 8th graders who reside in Albany are invited to the Albany High School Grade Parent Night on March 4 at the Little Theatre. Parents of active students will receive an overview of the program and procedures for grade students.

Tea dance
Washington Lions will hold the first regular Tea Dance Sunday, March 1, at the Porto Brasil, 385 Colusa Ave., starting from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 and proceeds help Lions Club fund. Music by DJ's The Other Brothers and drink available. This dance is the first Sunday of each month. Contact Shirley Markow, 528-8746.

Cholesterol and you
The Albany Library and Community Center is sponsoring Health Lectures by nutritionist Dr. Jim Good talks about cholesterol, the cause and control in the lecture room on Tuesday at 6:45 p.m.

El Cerrito
El Cerrito hosts City Planning Phillips' of its next monthly meeting to discuss the General Plan. Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Cerrito Royale retirement residence and floor lounge, 6510 Gladys, main entrance, behind St. John's Ministry Center, on the Ohlone side of the building. All are welcome.

For Father Time
With Doug Phillips on the radio show for and about KELG, 88.1 FM in El Cerrito, from 9 a.m. to noon) presents Father Time's home maintenance advisor, on what you need to consider painting your home's interior. Kay Pedersen, Father Time's financial advisor, gives tips on buying software for your family. And Jim Langan, project director of the Injury Prevention Project at the Health Services Department, discusses safety and kids.

Golf tournament
You are invited to play in the second annual West Elementary School Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 2 at 1:30 p.m. at Lake Chabot Golf Course. Your fee includes green fees, cart, range balls, tee prizes and dinner. The tournament in scramble format will fit all from high to low handicap. All proceeds go to the Music Department of West Elementary School. Entry form or details: 528-4218.

Albany mayor eyes socially conscious investing

■ City takes up the issue a week after El Cerrito began discussing it.

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — If Mayor Bruce Mast has his way, Albany will become a city that has nothing to do

with tobacco companies, environmental polluters and sweat-shop labor practices, possibly even what one major newspaper has termed the "illegal" presidency of Nigerian leader Gen. Sani Abacha. Of course, Mayor Mast would need three votes from the five-member City Council to make something like that happen. Thus far, he has

only one: his own.

Pursuing what would be his most radical move during two months as Albany's mayor, Mast last week proposed drafting resolutions urging "socially responsible investment alternatives" by state agencies, including screens against tobacco companies and those that harm the environment. Though only one

council member (Bob Good) of the four who were present shot the idea down entirely, others would commit only to looking into it further, leaving Albany's status as a cutting-edge, "socially responsible" investor in limbo for now.

"As a local government, our first and foremost responsibility is to the residents of Albany," the Mayor

wrote in a memorandum to the council asking that the above-mentioned goals be pursued. "However, in promoting the interests of Albany residents, we should also pursue policies that promote the public good for the region, the state, the nation, and the world whenever doing so does not directly conflict with the

See INVEST on page 19

Still the rain kept falling



People, soil
get a few
merciful days
to wring out

Even with two non-rain days this week and another predicted today, a saturated community still has no lack of reminders of just how much rain has fallen during this record-breaking season.



Above, El Niño added a pool to Arlington Park — under the swing set. Center, a tree's roots gave way on the rain-weakened hillside on Galvin Drive, taking power and cable TV lines with it. The tree was just one of the storm season's casualties. Left, the precipitation also proved too much for the concrete planters on this portion of creek in Poinsett Park.

Top, bottom photo: J.R. Deaton. Center photo: Chris Treadaway.

Teen center tops Albany block grant spending list

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — Deciding how best to spend more than \$90,000 per year in federal grant money over the next five years, the City Council last week unanimously set creation of a new teen center as a top priority, followed by improvements to San Pablo and Solano avenues.

Though the source of the money, an estimated \$92,364 per year in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, has dwindled year by year and could someday cease entirely, the council did feel a new teen center should be at the top of the city's list. Other projects approved by the council include \$18,000 in Americans with Disabilities Act

See BLOCK on page 19

Budget: 'Warning of problems ahead'

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — With Councilmember Norman LaForce saying "I'm somewhat dissatisfied that we're still talking about what we're going to talk about" and Mayor Jane Bartke saying city government needs to look at finances in an "outside the box" innovative manner, and Councilmember Larry Damon saying "We've got to get past the question of is there a deficit to avoid," it's clear El Cerrito's Deficit Avoidance Program may take a while to gel.

For sometime now, civic leaders have seen a deficit problem looming on the city's horizon. During the past few months the city council and city officers have been working on something called the Deficit Avoidance Program. In a report before the council earlier this month, Jay Corey, the City's Interim Community and Administrative Services Manager, noted that the expected deficit is actually a "projected systematic shortfall." The report states that this shortfall is not a budget crisis, nor is it an actual deficit. The current year's budget is balanced and El Cerrito has a little more than \$1 million in reserve for emergencies.

See INVEST on page 19

EC Council takes meeting to neighborhood setting

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — About 35 people came to a city council/study session meeting last week to hear the council report on its recent goal-setting workshop and to talk about what they like and dislike about their community.

Gathering in the Fellowship Hall of Saint Peter's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on Cypress Avenue, the audience heard Mayor Jane Bartke talk about the council's vision for El Cerrito before breaking into three study groups to discuss things for themselves.

During a three-day workshop last week the five councilmembers reviewed past achievements and developed one-year and five-year goals for the City. Among the suc-

cesses mentioned by Bartke at the Tuesday meeting was the initiation of the General Plan update process, the start of curbside recycling and green waste pick up, storm drain project completion and construction of the Arlington Fire Station #72. She said of the new building: "We now have a fire station that will survive any earthquake."

"Top priority" goals for 1998, according to the mayor's presentation, include the General Plan update work, a financial plan for the city, El Cerrito Plaza development and construction of a community soccer field. Secondary or "high priority" goals for this year include park restoration, creek restoration (with emphasis on Baxter and Cer-

See ROAD on page 19



West County Science Fair honors local students

There were 22 El Cerrito students who won awards when the winners of the West Contra Costa Science Fair were announced Feb. 12. The event showcased 196 entries from 10 schools: Stewart K-8 and Tehiyah Day schools; Adams, Carquinez and Portola middle schools; Juan Crespi Junior High; and De Anza, El Cerrito, Kennedy and Pinole Valley high schools.

The awards ceremony included special presentations of perpetual awards named for people who, in the past, have contributed greatly to the fair. The Hal Magarian Memorial Award with a cash prize went to De Anza High senior Diana Ortega for her project on

See SCIENCE on page 19

Viewpoint

Why El Cerrito can't afford to sacrifice Baxter Creek

By Maryann Aberg and Lisa Viani

Co-Founders, Friends of Baxter Creek

The new design for an expanded Lucky Market near the corner of San Pablo and MacDonald fails to reflect the "innovative thinking" promised by Lucky representatives at a meeting with the Friends of Baxter Creek in November 1997. Instead of creatively preserving the creek to attract customers with open space, native plants, wildlife, and an extension of the Ohlone Greenway, this proposal eliminates most of the open space on the site and buries at least half of the creek in a concrete culvert.

Why should we care about losing Baxter Creek and its surrounding habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife? After all, some people consider the waterway to be a man-made ditch rather than a creek, and the area has been treated as a garbage dump for years. Why not take advantage of this development to spruce up the property? To answer these questions, let's consider the pros and cons of the proposal:

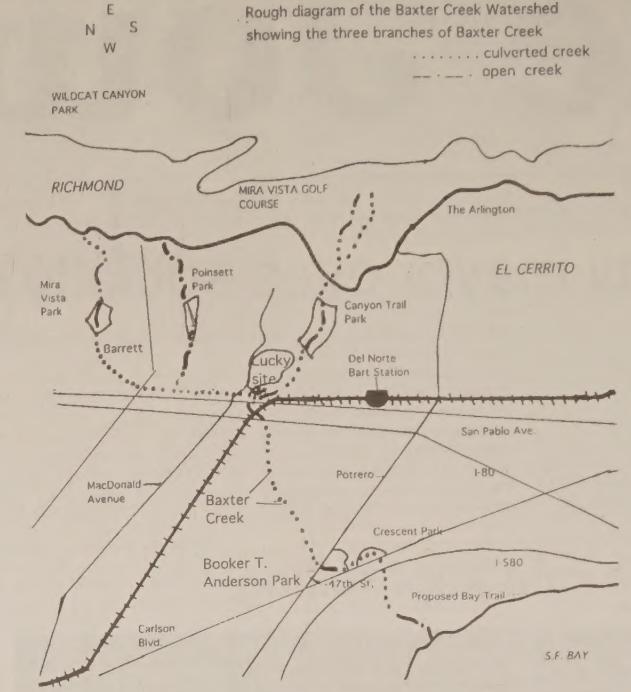
A new, attractive Lucky store would brighten up the north gateway to the city, but a simple remodeling of the market at its existing site would accomplish the same transformation without jeopardizing property designated by the California Department of Fish & Game as a wetland. The store could even be expanded if the seldom-used parking spaces on the west side of the store were sacrificed or creative architects came up with an innovative shape to integrate a larger store with the existing creek. Friends of Baxter Creek could clean up the adjoining property with a grant

from the California Department of Water Resources and restore the creek at no cost to city residents. The Waterways Restoration Institute, a nonprofit creek restoration organization in Berkeley, could hire local youth groups like CYCLE or the East Bay Conservation Corps to maintain the restored creek at minimum wage.

Grocery stores provide an important service to our community, but the existing Lucky Market is large enough to serve the needs of northside shoppers. The store is half empty during most of the week, and even if it were to close, there are plenty of other nearby grocery stores to choose from: Safeway across the street on MacDonald, FoodsCo three blocks away on Eastshore Boulevard, one of three other Luckys and Safeways in El Cerrito, and a Lucky and Raley's in San Pablo. Furthermore, if Lucky vacated such a valuable corner lot, it wouldn't be difficult to persuade a store like Trader Joe's to move there — providing even more selection for El Cerrito residents.

An expanded store would generate more sales tax for the city than the existing market, but only for nongrocery items like drugs and sundries. On these products, Lucky would face fierce competition from nearby stores like Target and the Walgreen's being constructed across from the Del Norte BART station. The bulk of Lucky's sales would continue to be groceries, for which no sales tax is charged.

The Redevelopment Agency would be able to improve an area long considered to be a blight on the El Cerrito landscape, but it is unclear whether this debt-ridden agency is solvent enough to either



Rough diagram of the Baxter Creek Watershed showing the three branches of Baxter Creek. Dotted line indicates culverted creek. Dash-dot is open creek.

contribute or finance the estimated \$1.1 million necessary to acquire the land from current property owners, relocate businesses like Winston Tires, and carry out toxic remediation on the site. Even if the agency managed to come up with that amount, why should El Cerritos foot the bill merely to increase Lucky's profits?

Clearly, an expanded Lucky Market is not necessary to improve the area, meet our needs for groceries and drugs, or contribute revenue to the city. The new market would serve only to strip El Cerrito of an irreplaceable natural resource

while lining the pockets of American Stores Properties, Inc., Lucky's Utah-based corporate owners. Even though creek consultant Ann Riley provided Lucky with minimum flood-plain widths for the creek, she has never advocated culverting any part of Baxter Creek. If Lucky must construct a new building, it should do so on its current site or on vacant, already developed property like the abandoned Food Bowl site a few blocks away on San Pablo.

Let's take a moment to consider what El Cerrito

See CREEK on page 7

Letters to the Editor

Wrong message for future generation

Editor:

As a Jew and the grandfather of two Tehiyah Day School students, I am dismayed at the message Emanuel Zisman ("Jerusalem meets American Jewry," The Journal, Feb. 19) brings to my grandchildren. Netanyahu coalition member Zisman is quoted as saying that "nobody knows" whether Israel will use the atomic bomb on Iraq. If Zisman belongs to a coalition that even considers starting an atomic war and does not speak out against such a possibility, he is a disgrace to world Jewry.

Gilbert Bendix
Kensington

Measure A would make rules consistent

Editor:

Thank you for your informative article regarding Measure A which will be on Albany's June ballot. While the piece was thorough, I must clarify an important point. To quote the author regarding unexpected consequences of 1996's Measure Q: "...the wholesale removal of members of many commissions because no 'transition period' had been included [in Measure Q]."

Measure Q contained no "transitional language" for two reasons. First, Measure Q was an amendment to the City's Charter and transitional language does not belong in the City's Charter and never has been included in it. Second, Measure Q was written in accordance with the City's Ordinance 2-1-2. This Ordinance DID have transitional language that the City HAD BEEN using for over 25 years. In fact, Charter Section 3.21 contains provisions for just such ordinances which were consistent with the Charter.

In reality, Measure Q did nothing but transpose parts of City Ordinance 2-1-2 into the Charter so that volunteer appointment procedures were consistent — it did nothing to change how the City operated in regard to its volunteer appointments.

Unfortunately, after Measure Q passed, the City Attorney suddenly proclaimed that transitional language should be in the Charter. This caused the "removal" of many citizen volunteers from the City's various advisory bodies and also

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Smith
123 Elm Street
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Letters to The Journal
P.O. Box 1624
El Cerrito, CA 94530

disrupted the City's business
— the Planning & Zoning
Commission did not meet for one
month and the Waterfront
Committee did not meet for four
months!

In its "clean-up" of Measure A, the Charter Committee has added yet another provision to the Charter that specifically cites the City's option in providing an ordinance with transitional language — as well as any other specific details necessary to administer volunteers on advisory bodies.

Albany residents should approve Measure A this June so that the City can finally have consistent rules in respect to its volunteer advisors.

Jerri Holan, Member
Albany Charter Committee
Albany

Permit policies enforced inconsistently

The Journal received a copy of the following letter to Albany City Administrator Daren Fields, City Administrator and Community Development Director Bill Ekern:

While I cannot find it in my heart to appeal the Feb. 10 decision of the Planning & Zoning Commission to approve a Conditional Use Permit for Christopher Cheung's proposed restaurant at 1501 Solano Avenue, I have some serious issues to raise about the application of current permit policies.

At the Planning & Zoning hearing, Commissioner Hays said they weren't considering parking issues for this proposed business because "the current parking rules are unenforceable." What about everyone else who has followed those rules since their adoption about twenty years ago? No mention was made of the amounts that might be assessed on Mr. Cheung for "parking exceptions," but it seems that business will bring 30-40 cars at a time to the neighborhood, impacting both commercial and residential. It will be a nightmare!

In the same vein, the

The Ace of Cups

The Man I Greeted With a Gun in My Hand

By Greg Hugunin

Deadline day is the most godawful of days, dash to 3,000 words every week after week. I know that Sisyphus felt: every week waiting seven days later, which must be torture...words, photos, gibberish...forget to care by the end of deadline day, which begins at 8 a.m. and ends around five or six, by which my vision is blurry and my hands hurt from all I want is some fresh-squeezed orange juice from the corner store a block from my apartment.

Just a few weeks ago, deadline day had come and gone, more loomed ahead, but the days were 7 and 14 and 21 days off, and my orange juice was waiting as evening descended upon the neighborhood. I represent one of those strange combinations you find in San Francisco: we have flowering cherry trees and the immaculate, new Victorians, but also reports on the Ten O'Clock News that someone was killed stone cold dead in a block away the night before (and I always wonder why didn't I hear the shots?). Sometimes you say hello to people on the street, but more often you don't, and as I walked to the store I was in no mood to say anything to anyone when a complete stranger stopped me and said he wanted to shake my hand. I was shocked; after all, I'm not a rock star yet, he told me where I knew him from, and I remembered: the last time I saw him he was standing at my door in his underwear at three in the morning. This, my friends, was no adoring fan. Instead it was The Man I Greeted With a Gun in My Hand.

But first, I should tell you about Untouchable Beauty, who bears a striking resemblance to those impossibly perfect movie stars we all love. UB and I have known each other a few years, enjoy one another's company (although not in the way I would sometimes prefer), and too much because she's beautiful, and I can't have her.

See ACE on page 7



The Journal

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Where are we?

All operations are at 5707 Redwood Road (just east of the intersection with Skyline), Oakland, Calif. 94619. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

How to reach us

Our phone number is (510) 339-4060. To reach the editors voice mail call (510) 236-9243. If you have news, calendar items of letters to the editor, send them to the Montclair, 5707 Redwood Road, Room 10, Oakland, CA 94619. Or e-mail them to hillspub@idom.com Or fax them to (510) 339-4066.

How to place an ad

The deadline for classified ads is 11 a.m. the day before date of publication. To place a classified ad, call (510) 339-8777, fax (510)

339-6010 or come in person to 5707 Redwood Road. To place a display ad, call (510) 339-4030.

How to subscribe

Subscriptions are \$25 per year if carrier-delivered within the normal circulation area of the Journal. Mailed subscriptions are \$100 per year or \$50 for 6-months. Call 339-4040 for more details.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must concern Albany/El Cerrito issues. They should not exceed 750 words. Letters may be edited for clarity. We reserve the right not to publish a letter. Letters must include the name, signature, address and phone number of the writer.

Deadline

Items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance.

Editor:

I loved Israeli journalist Ya'ari's metaphor in your full quote: We cannot handle [Iran and Iraq] all on our own, and we should not... The small rabbits like us should stay out of the elephants' way."

The worst-kept secret in the world is that a "rabb" possesses a stockpile of nuclear weapons, and those who do not know that nothing could wreck the world economy, and probably much more, than the rabbit using them. So America must go to war under a variety of pretexts to keep it from doing what brings up the interesting question of just who is whose client state anyway?

Gray Brechin
Berkeley

Political Notes

they lining up to take on the "People's Lawyer"? So far EBMUD member John Gioia of Richmond has announced his candidacy for the seat. Jim Rogers, also of Richmond, for Rogers' seat represents West County on the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. But at two others are said to be preparing a run for the seat as well, including former El Cerrito city council member Cathie Kosel, now of the city.

All their interest in the West County seat may actually work in their favor, according to some observers. While his ethics as an attorney have occasionally been questioned, Rogers' name-recognition is undeniable. Not only has he advised car accident victims for the current president of the Board of Supervisors.

Some lookers say that a single voter could have a running start to capture a good portion of the vote, but that multiple challengers will divide the non-Rogers vote and leave him not even in a runoff.

Many ballot
Many voters will have more
Measure A (a city issue
city council appointment
to commissions) and Measure
the countywide renewal of
sales tax for transportation
to vote on June 2. Three of
the seats on the relatively ob-
Alameda County Board of
elections are up for election, in-
cluding Trustee Area 1, which cov-
ers El Cerrito, Berkeley, Emeryville,
and a portion of North
Berkeley. The incumbent is former
board member Jerome
an Oaklander who was
elected to the seat in 1992 and
to a full term in 1994.

Board oversees county-operated
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TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A

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Albany relents on needle exchange benefit

By Lori Roniger

ALBANY — More than 150 teenagers and young adults danced to the sounds of reggae-flavored ska music at Albany's Community Center last Friday evening, hoping their revelry will help reduce the spread of AIDS.

An apparently innocuous event, only days before it had been canceled by the Community Center due to stated concerns about security and noise in the largely residential neighborhood at the corner of Marin and Masonic avenues. But, outside the center during the dance, the loudest noises came from street traffic and trains on the nearby BART tracks.

The gathering, which showcased four local ska bands, was a benefit for Berkeley's NEED (Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution) program. Despite the aim of needle exchanges to prevent the spread of diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis C, among users of injectable drugs, NEED and other needle exchanges in the Bay Area and throughout the country struggle to receive adequate financing because of laws prohibiting needle exchanges and the use of public funds for the purchase of syringes.

Middle school bond

"Not to jump the gun, but it's not too early to start telling everyone you know that there is no middle school in Richmond and the students have to travel far to attend middle schools like Portola and Adams," says the El Cerrito Democratic Club in its latest newsletter. "We can't afford to lose this one," the newsletter adds about the bond measure on the June ballot.

The club is also calling on El Cerrito residents to participate in the City Council's upcoming financial planning sessions, in the form of citizen study groups.

ECAP meeting

Contra Costa's Elections Citizens Advisory Panel meets March 2 at the Elections Office, 524 Main St. in Martinez at 10 a.m. In addition to accepting public comment, agenda items for this month's meeting include an update on allegations of voter fraud in San Francisco, phone strategy on election day and a League of Women Voters discussion on video taping the elections process.

Send items for this column to PO Box 1624, El Cerrito, 94530; fax them to 339-4066 or e-mail them to hillsnews@aol.com



Ska/punk band Alien Spy livens up the scene at the Albany Community Center. Teens gathered to raise funds to fight AIDS among needle users.

Chester King Vega

Rachel Hill, a Berkeley resident who is a junior at Oakland's College Preparatory School, had arranged Friday's benefit concert, but was told by the Albany Community Center only three days before the scheduled event that it was being canceled due to security concerns. However, after Hill met with John Medlock of the Community Center the next day, the concert was permitted to go ahead as planned.

Medlock was not available for comment on the center's apparent flip-flop on the issue.

Albany Police Lt. Greg Bone said he had advised the Community

Center about his concerns regarding potential security issues, "noise level" and "behavior" problems at the NEED event. But did the fact that the concert was a benefit for a needle exchange influence his recommendations? "Absolutely not," Bone said.

Additionally, Bone said that the decision about whether or not to cancel the event was made by the City of Albany and the community center, while he had merely informed them about his concerns.

Susan Levine, Hill's mother, speculated that the Albany Police Department had confused ska mu-

sic with hip-hop music, which has been associated with violence at concerts in the past. A fatal shooting took place at the Thousand Oaks Masonic Lodge after a hip-hop concert last year.

Hill's father, Richard Hill, said Medlock had behaved "very honorably" and had been "put in an unfortunate position by the police department."

On Friday evening, Rachel Hill was slightly disappointed about the turnout for the benefit. She noted that The Daily Californian, the UC Berkeley student newspaper, had covered the cancellation of the concert on page one on Feb. 11, but published a story about the reinstatement of the event only the day before it took place, and on page three.

Fundraising has been a constant battle for NEED since its inception in 1990. The organization, which holds weekly needle exchanges at two Berkeley locations, receives \$40,000 annually from the City of Berkeley. The money goes towards supplies with which NEED provides its clients - such as condoms, dental dams and bleach - that is, everything but syringes.

Under current state law, Berke-

See BENEFIT on page 40

EC takes step to control neighborhood traffic

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — People living near the Blake and Lexington and Blake and Liberty Street intersections south of Del Norte Bart will soon see stop signs replace the yield signs at those two locations.

After receiving complaints of unsafe traffic conditions at Blake and Liberty Streets, the City hired traffic engineering consultant Charlie Abrams of Abrams Associates to evaluate the situation. Abrams looked at the intersection at Blake Street and Liberty Street as well as the Blake Street/Lexington Avenue intersection one block west.

Residents of the area complain that people often travel the streets too fast and that the yield signs are sometimes ignored. "It's like a speedway the way they drive up and down this street," said Katherine Cothren who has lived on Blake Street since 1948. Joseph McCormick, who lives on the southeast corner of Liberty and Blake, said "This is a very dangerous area

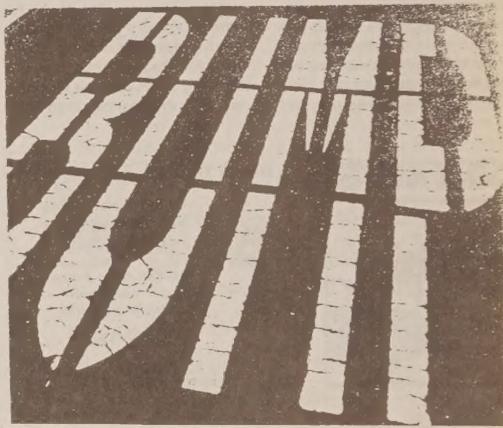
especially in the evening." The traffic study notes that Blake Street carries traffic between residential areas east of Liberty Street to the San Pablo Avenue corridor.

There have been two reported broadside accidents at Liberty and Blake and one at Blake and Lexington in the past four years. The Abrams report states that the effective safe approach for both intersections is less than 10 miles per hour because houses and fences restrict the view.

Following staff recommendation, the city council approved the new stop signs during its Feb. 2 meeting. The new signs should be in place within the next few weeks.

Bumps in the road

Meanwhile, several years of petitioning and lobbying City Hall paid off for the 700 block of Pomona Avenue residents last week when El Cerrito's Engineering and Maintenance Division notified the neighborhood that "a sufficient percentage of property owners were in



Speed humps are coming to Pomona Avenue.

agreement" about installing speed humps on the street.

The block in question is adjacent to El Cerrito High School and many residents were concerned about speeding traffic on the street. It

should be noted, as is often the case with speed humps that not all residents agreed with the petition effort. According to the notification, the city plans to install the humps "within the next few months."

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SPEAKERS: Eric K. Cain, Financial Consultant
David Whalen, Financial Consultant
RSVP: Olga Cade (510) 644-4400
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Source: Internal Revenue Service

Police Reports

Car thieves learn every litter bit hurts

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — At about 1:45 a.m. on Feb. 20 officers observed the occupants of the car in front of them, a green Ford Mustang, toss litter out the window onto the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue. A check of the vehicle found that it had been reported as stolen from San Francisco. Officers contacted the occupants, a 22-year-old Clayton man and a 23-year-old Richmond man, and they were arrested for grand theft auto and possession of stolen property. They were transported to the Berkeley jail and the owner of the car was notified.

• On Feb. 15 a resident on the 500 block of Pierce Street reported that during the night some one broke into her '84 Jeep CJ7. There were no witnesses.

• On the evening of Feb. 15 a woman called to report overhearing a conversation between her daughter and a person the woman knows uses drugs. She believed the person also supplied drugs to her daughter. Officers investigated and contacted the subject, a 17-year-old Tiburon girl, on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. She was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and released to her father with a Notice to Appear.

• On the morning of Feb. 16 officers investigated four cars on the 500 block of Pierce Street that had been broken into during the night. There were no witnesses to these acts.

• At about 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 a resident on the 700 block of Jackson Street reported observing two male juveniles going into the Vista School yard carrying what appeared

to be beer in bags. Officers investigated and found a 22-year-old Albany man and a 23-year-old Oakland man who were indeed drinking beer. The Oakland man was arrested on an outstanding narcotics warrant from UC-Berkeley Police and was released with a Notice to Appear. The Albany man checked clear and was told to depart. The beer was poured out.

• At about 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 a resident on the 1000 block of Pomona Avenue reported that his bike had been stolen while it was parked in front of the Safeway Store on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

• Just before 8 p.m. on Feb. 17 a resident on the 1100 block of Dartmouth Street reported that a hit-and-run had just occurred. The driver had fled on foot and witnesses followed him and detained him until officers arrived. The subject, a 20-year-old Oakland man was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested for driving without a license and for DUI and was released with a Notice to Appear.

• Several public mailboxes at various locations throughout Albany were broken into on Feb. 17 and 18. There were no witnesses.

• On the morning of Feb. 19 a resident on the 1000 block of Santa Fe reported that during the night thieves had entered her house and stole musical instruments. There were no witnesses.

• At about 11:30 p.m. on Feb. 20 a resident on the 900 block of Cornell Avenue reported that several juveniles were creating a disturbance at the basketball courts at Cornell School. Officers contacted a group of nine people. Five were

sent on their way and three 17-year-old Albany girls were arrested for being minors in possession of alcohol and were released to their parents with a Notice to Appear. An 18-year-old Albany man was arrested for contributing to the delinquency of a minor and was released with a Notice to Appear.

• At about noon on Feb. 21 a resident on the 800 block of Ramona Avenue reported that thieves had stolen a large orchid plant from her front porch. There were no witnesses.

Shortly before midnight on Feb. 21 officers observed a 20-year-old Albany man on Solano Avenue near Peralta Avenue who was known to have outstanding Albany warrants for burglary and for DUI. The victim was dropped off near Canyon Trail Park. Police received a description of the suspect. No arrests have been made.

• On Tuesday Feb. 17 around 5:30 p.m. a man met a woman at her Kearney St. apartment where it was agreed the man would have sex with her in exchange for money.

After having sex the man was unable to pay. The woman pulled a handgun and took the man to a Bank Of America ATM. When the man was unable to withdraw cash the woman took his wallet. The woman was arrested and booked on kidnapping for robbery.

• Just before 1 p.m. on Feb. 9 an unknown suspect attempted to hit a man with his Toyota pick-up on the 11600 block of San Pablo Ave. after an argument and physical confrontation about driving.

• Sometime between 8:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. on Feb. 9 an unknown suspect smashed the right rear window of a '91 Toyota Tercel parked in the El Cerrito Plaza parking lot and removed the vehicle's electronics. The loss was estimated at \$1,022.

• Just before 10 p.m. on Feb. 10 a suspect grabbed a woman by the arm and offered her money for sex.

Kidnap/rape ordeal ends in EC

By William-Arthur Haynes

EL CERRITO—Just after 12 a.m. on Feb. 17 a suspect kidnapped a 15-year-old woman at knife-point on Lincoln Rd. near Benicia Rd. in Vallejo and placed her in a car headed for Oakland. The suspect then took the victim back to Richmond where he raped and sodomized her in the loading dock of the San Pablo Ave. Lucky Supermarket near MacDonald. The victim was dropped off near Canyon Trail Park. Police received a description of the suspect. No arrests have been made.

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• Just before 10 p.m. on Feb. 10 a suspect grabbed a woman by the arm and offered her money for sex.

No arrest was made.

• Sometime between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Feb. 13 a suspect reached into an open window of a '65 Ford pick-up parked on the 1500 block of Richmond St. and removed a portable radio. The radio was later recovered. No arrest was made.

• On Feb. 14 someone smashed the window of a '91 Plymouth Voyager parked on the 1700 block of Eastshore Blvd. and removed four bags of groceries and left the scene.

• At around 8:45 p.m. on Feb. 14 someone threw a beer bottle through a Lincoln Ave. apartment window.

• At around 9:50 a.m. on Feb. 14 an unknown suspect entered an open garage on the 2700 block of Arlington and removed a bicycle. The loss was estimated at \$600.

• Sometime between 11 p.m. on Feb. 9 and 8 a.m. on Feb. 10 an unknown suspect pried open a garage door on the 2600 block of Tamalpais and removed tools, skis and an inflatable dinghy from a stored ski boat. The loss was estimated at \$2,560.

• Just after 12 a.m. on Feb. 13 a woman was arrested in a '93 Mazda Protégé for an outstanding warrant on the corner of Eastshore Blvd. and Potrero Ave. The woman was arrested for the warrant and charged for resisting and delaying arrest and obstructing a police officer.

• On Feb. 13 a man entered the FoodsCo and concealed a bottle of alcohol on his person before attempting to leave. The man was arrested for shoplifting.

• During a traffic stop at MacDonald Ave and Interstate 80 around 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 16 a man was arrested for a warrant. The man was found to be in possession of a

hypodermic needle and syringe. Police received a report that a man working on a remodeling project on the block of Everett took the syringe and didn't belong to him. The estimated at \$890.

• On Feb. 19 a man at Plaza Longs Drugs andarmacy obtained a package of Mother's Cookies and a row in his jacket. When an employee confronted the man, he refused to give the cookies. The man was arrested for shoplifting.

• At around 1 a.m. on Feb. 20 a man was arrested during a stop for possession of a

• Three juveniles and a woman were arrested Feb. 22 for possession of a stolen '86 Toyota obtained in a strong-arm robbery.

• On Feb. 22 a man at Blockbuster Video displayed a handgun and demanded the register. The man was nearby with the gun and the suspect was arrested for resisting and delaying arrest and obstructing a police officer.

• Just after 12 p.m. on Feb. 22 a suspect was arrested for an outstanding warrant on the corner of Eastshore Blvd. and Potrero Ave. Police found the person in possession of marijuana less than a gram.

Tax fraud indicators

SACRAMENTO — A man from El Cerrito was indicted Feb. 6 by a federal grand jury on 102 counts of filing false tax returns and mail fraud, according to Paul L. Seave, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of California.

Carlton Meyer, 36, is accused of orchestrating a scheme, the successful, would have cheated the Internal Revenue Service out of California Franchise Tax Board of over \$600,000 in refunds.

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UTR sponsors Read Across America celebration

Did you know that next Monday (March 2) is Dr. Seuss' Birthday? In honor of the United Teachers of the Richmond, the United Teachers of the Richmond are inviting local elementary schools to participate in the annual Read Across America celebration. Specifically, teachers are asking members of the West County community to donate one hour of their time on March 2 to be a volunteer at a participating school.

In a letter to the community, Marta Corbin, UTR president, wrote, "In recent years we have heard our state and national leaders talk boldly about world class standards for our schools. It sounds great. But the fact is that too many of our children don't read, or can't read. Still, there's no sense wringing our sleeves. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.' In spirit, we intend to light thousands of candles across the United States, all on one day ... to ignite a sustained commitment in America to the basic skill of READERSHIP."

Do you give an hour on March 2? If so, call Dragos at the UTR (222-5112).

UTR calls for community support of school bond

In her "State of the City" address to the Richmond Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 18, Richmond Mayor Corbin said 1998 "holds many promises if our challenges are intelligently met." In the course of her remarks, she called on the community to support the WCCUSD bond on the June 2 ballot. The measure seeks to reduce overcrowding in district middle schools and to urgently needed facility renovations. Corbin said, "I can't have a safe, economically viable community without a strong education system."

Math counts at Adams

For the fifth year in a row, Adams Middle School has sent a team of four students to the MATHCOUNTS East Bay Chapter competition. Team members Amy Huang, Ben Moshe, Kathleen Tam and Bryce Young took fourth place at the Feb. 14 competition held at UC Berkeley. Ben Moshe ranked fourth overall in the competition, which involved public and private middle schools from throughout the East Bay. He will compete with the East Bay All-Star team at the MATHCOUNTS state competition in March. The national competition will be held in May. The Adams team, along with alternates Ian Umemoto and Andrew Kucera were coached by El Cerrito High students, and Adams alumni Adena Young and Ben Young. Both Adena and Ben represented Adams on the 1994 Adams MATHCOUNTS team and were members of the 1995 Adams team that won the East Bay Chapter competition and represented the East Bay Chapter at the state MATHCOUNTS competition that year.

MATHCOUNTS is a challenging mathematics competition organized and run by the National Society of Professional Engineers and sponsored by a number of public and private entities including NASA, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Texas Instruments Incorporated, General Motors, Dow Chemical, 3M Foundation and CNA. MATHCOUNTS is designed to promote seventh and eighth grade math achievement and stimulate student interest in mathematics "by making math achievement as challenging, exciting and prestigious as a school sport." MATHCOUNTS provided the Adams team with a valuable opportunity to expand and test their mathematics skills and abilities while also teaching them the discipline, preparation and teamwork needed to compete.

At this level of competition, the four Adams MATHCOUNTS team members gained much in terms of confidence, mathematical knowledge and maturity as the result of participating in MATHCOUNTS.

Information about MATHCOUNTS can be obtained at their website at thechalkboard.com/MC/default.html or by contacting the California MATHCOUNTS coordinator, Scot Vorhees, by email at s.vorhees@cspe.com or by telephone at (916) 422-7786.

Many thanks to Naomi Young, Adams Middle School Site Council President, for the information on Adams Middle School's participation in MATHCOUNTS. Want to receive "West County School Watch" and additional WCCUSD related information and alerts delivered to your email address? Send the message "Subscribe WCSW" to



West County School Watch

By Glen Price

pakglen@aol.com. West County School Watch is on the World Wide Web: <http://www.igc.apc.org/westcounty/>.

Albany kindergarten registration

The Albany Unified School District will register children for admission to Kindergarten and new enrollees (Grades 1-5) for fall 1998 on Monday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. (next to the Albany Library). Starting March 10, children may be registered at Vista, MacGregor, Marin, or Cornell schools. The district notes that registering your child at the closest school may not guarantee assignment to that school, because it may need to assign pupils outside of present school boundaries in order to house the expected enrollment.

For kindergarten registration, parents must bring the child's certified birth certificate or other proof of age and be prepared to fill out health forms concerning vaccinations, immunizations, and childhood diseases. Documentation of the dates of immunizations for polio, D.P.T., measles

(Rubella), mumps, rubella (German measles) and Hepatitis B for each kindergarten child is required.

Parents must provide a deed or

rental agreement plus two other forms of proof of Albany residence (W-2

form, permanent driver's license, utility bills, bank statement, etc.).

Children are eligible for public school kindergarten if they will be age 5 on or before Dec. 2, 1998. (All students registering must provide documentation stating proof of age.)

If registration on March 9 is not possible, register your child during school hours at any elementary school as soon as possible after that date. The date of registration is one factor that may be considered in making school assignments.

An information evening for new kindergarten parents will be held on Tuesday, March 17 (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) in the Multipurpose Room at Marin School, 1001 Santa Fe Ave.

Albany PTA Council News

By Belinda Lum

PTA meetings

• AHS PTA meets Monday, March 2 at 7:15 p.m. in the AHS Library.
• AMS PTA meets Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in the AMS Library. This meeting will be of interest to parents of 5th grade children. After the business portion of the meeting, the focus will turn to answering elementary questions from future AMS parents.

School Board meeting

• Board of Education meets on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Cornell multi-use room.

Poetry Forum

This poem was written as part of a series of workshops at Vista and MacGregor primary schools taught by poet Judith Tannenbaum.

The Pizza Moon

A whole pizza is like the moon. The pepperoni are craters.

A banana is like a crystal moon and an apple like a whole moon, like the sun.

Berries are like stars.

Oranges are like the sun, the moon and a round, big room.

Mangos are as oval as eggs.

A carrot is like a comet going down and candy is like the sky.

Marshmallows are like a cloud and a lollipop like a giant spoon.

Nerds are like crystals, like rain.

Rice is the color of rain and grapes falling are like rain falling.

Tootsie Rolls are the shape of a tunnel and macaroni is like a tunnel in a road.

Milk is like white water, like the Milky Way.

—group poem by Pat Donaldson's second grade class Vista Primary School

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■ El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce

President picks chamber's '98 committees

El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce committees for the coming year were named this week by newly-elected President Bill Kerber.

A new Civic Affairs & City Council Liaison Committee will monitor and review actions of the Council on matters which effect the business community. This group will also meet with representatives of city government to discuss matters of common interest, and will participate in updating El Cerrito's General Plan. Serving as chairman of this group will be Marge Collins. Assisting her will be Bob Winslow, Bill Morrow, Bill Kerber and Sewall Glinternick. A Development Committee has been charged by President Kerber with the task of monitoring the actions of the Redevelopment Agency, the Redevelopment Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission and Economic Development Advisory Committee (should one be named by the city). Picked to head this group was local Realtor Sil Addiego. Serving with him will be Larry Sanchez, Bob Winslow, Janet Jolley, Bill Kerber and Sewall Glinternick. Addiego was also selected to serve as the Chamber's representative on the General Plan Process Team. In this post he will help develop a new General Plan for El Cerrito by encouraging outreach to the community and insuring that the development process remains on track in terms of activities, products and schedule.

For the second year in a row Janet Jolley has been picked to head the group which will plan the Annual Chamber Of October Fiesta.

Those who will be helping her

stage the '98 fall celebration include June Bobbitt, Larry Sanchez, Will Chun, Rena Bruton, Barbara Cronin, Bill Kerber and Sewall Glinternick.

The job of overseeing and reporting on the progress of plans for the twice-yearly City-Wide Round-Up Sale Days promotion has been assigned to co-chairmen Harry Kiefer and Joe Pena.

As head of the Program Committee, Chamber First Vice President Michael Klinger will be responsible for consulting with the manager and staff to arrange speakers for the group's monthly business meetings.

New member hosts mixer

Newest business to join the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce is the Bending Willow School, located at 5327 Jacuzzi St., #3D in Jacuzzi Center.

The new martial arts school is headed by Scott Jenson, who will be hosting the next Chamber Mixer on Thursday, March 19. Those attending this session will have a chance to tour the school's facilities and may — if they wish — participate in a Tai Chi class free of charge.

Among the regular classes now being offered at Bending Willow School are:

Tai Chi Chusan, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Ba Gua Zhang, Monday through Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and Northern Shaolin Kung Fu and Xing Yi Quan, Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Reinvestments roll in

For the past two weeks reinvestments in this organization have continued to mount as some 45 businesses, individuals and organizations have renewed their

membership in the El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce.

Latest to earn the sincere appreciation of the Chamber for their support were the following: Abbey Pet Hospital, V.G. White Jewelers, PetVet Petfood, Fraternal Order of Eagles, El Cerrito Royale, Smart & Final, El Cerrito Heating & Sheetmetal, Longo Drugs, Mason McDuffie, Margie Myers, Contra Costa Civic Theater, Tony and Anna Mascaro, Neal Wells DDS, El Cerrito Art Association, Fern Luoma, Collins Property Management, Advanced Instruments, Dolly Helbush, The Junket, Strings Italian Cafe, Good Stuff Thrift Shop, Soroptimist International of El Cerrito, Larry Damon, EBMUD, Mark Perez DDS, El Cerrito Lighting, Ladbroke's Casino San Pablo, El Cerrito Medical Group, Marvin Collins Construction, Del Norte Check Cashing, Doherty's Truck & Auto Rental, Mira Vista Golf & Country Club, West County Times, El Cerrito Mill & Lumber, Mercury Mail & Message Service, Contra Costa Private Industry Council, Tradeway Stores, El Cerrito Electric, El Cerrito Plaza, Dr. John Hoagland, Intertude, WCCUSD Supt. Herb Cole, East Bay Sanitary, Target Stores, Uncle Wong's.

Talk on taxes scheduled

The El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce will come to the aid of small local businesses just as the deadline for filing tax returns nears.

Highlighting the next Chamber business meeting on Monday, March 23, will be a talk by representatives of Prmerica Financial Services Investments (a subsidiary of Travelers Group) titled "The Tax Relief Act Of

1997 And You."

In charge of this program, scheduled for noon at Little Ange's Restaurant & Tavern at 6115 Potrero Ave., is Henry Lincoln Sr., head of the Prmerica Financial Services office in El Cerrito. Pointing out that it was important for members of the local business community to attend this session, Lincoln promised it would show small businesspeople and the self-employed how to slash their tax bill.

"The big news for the businesses here," Lincoln said, "was that the new tax relief law includes a full slate of savings — including a break for family-owned businesses, capital-gains relief on the sale of firms, a more liberal home-office deduction, and fatter write-offs for health insurance for the self-employed."

Reservations for the March 23 tax talk may be made by contacting the Chamber office at 233-7040 by Thursday, March 19 with your choice of steak or shrimp salad for lunch.

Round-up sale deadline near

Local businesses interested in participating in the Chamber Of Commerce's Spring Round-Up Sale Days citywide business promotion were being urged this week to act as soon as possible.

The spring event is scheduled for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 26 through 29, and will be promoted in a special advertising supplement which will appear that weekend in *Family Fair*, *The Journal* and *Berkeley Voice*.

The Chamber has arranged a special low rate for those wishing to advertise in the Round-up Tabloid. Part of the cost of each ad will be rebated to the business

Honored for outstanding service to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, immediate past-president June Bobbitt receives special plaque from Bill Kerber, newly-installed head of local business organization.

organization to finance promotional activities throughout the year.

There is still time to reserve ad space in this supplement. Those wishing assistance in doing so may call the Chamber office at 233-7040 or *Family Fair* at 237-7777.

Day at the Races coming up

Tickets are now available for the El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce's annual Day At The Races on Wednesday, May 20.

Tickets for the event, which will be held at Golden Gate

Fields, are \$35 per person. The fee covers free valet parking admission to the Turf Club's gourmet lunch in the VIP Directors' Lounge.

Since space is limited, those interested in attending the races are being asked to make reservations as soon as possible. Call the Chamber office at 233-7040.

IRA advice available

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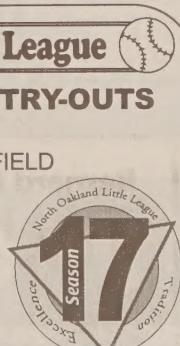
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action.

"Greg, call 911," she said, and with that, she rolled over and went back to sleep.

I have never in my life called 911, and, unless given a real good reason, I wasn't about to start now. What I did do is, I decided to answer the door...after all, I wasn't going to let someone die right outside my window. I took my small-caliber handgun — a holdover from a few years back, when I used to carry large amounts of cash and live in the desert (all legal, of course, but don't ask) — figuring I wasn't going to let someone kill me right outside my window, either. I kept the gun in my hand and my hand in my pocket, no bullet in the chamber so there would be no accidents. But when I answered the door there was nobody there; I wasn't even awake enough to respond to that phantom voice, and my doorbell rang, and I others ringing throughout building. It was increasingly this situation was not going to change, and I lay there hoping someone else would deal with it, wake up and decided to take

just the cold, lonely street.

"Hello?" I said, and there appeared a young man in underwear and a T-shirt, just a few years younger than me, shaking. He said he lived down street and that two men just woke him up and announced they were going to rob him. He was shaking something furious and said the men told him to stay in bed while they did this. He said they threatened to kill him if he left, which he'd done.

"You're the only one," he said. "The only one who answered. The only one."

I let him stand in the lobby and brought him my cordless phone and dialed 911 and handed it to him. With a gun in my hand I stood there watching him, this stranger, as he told the dispatcher what had happened. I kept an eye

on him at first, to make sure he didn't steal my phone, although after a while I went back to my apartment and put the gun away, feeling foolish for having brought it in the first place. The police arrived a few minutes later, too late to catch anyone, and the last thing I saw was the young man leading them into his house. Quite an adventure, considering I'd thought the night already over. As for Untouchable Beauty, well, she was fast asleep.

That was a few months back, and I did not recognize that young man when I saw him again, on deadline day, when my vision was blurry and all I wanted was some

fresh-squeezed orange juice to drink.

He had to remind me, and I was like, "Oh yeah, I remember you." He shook my hand and introduced me to his mother, who was parking their car, and told her I was the only person on our street who had answered. He said it again, like a mantra: He was the only one, and she said I was an Angel, and I gave her one of those smiles, and they went into their house while I continued on toward the store.

I am certainly no angel, nor am I even particularly impressed with my handling of the situation: I mean, I could have done more, I

could have trusted him, given him a blanket to keep him warm or some other kindly thing like that. I let a stranger stand in my lobby for a few minutes, make a telephone call, and that was it. For God's sake, if you can't do that for a person, what are you willing to do?

Holy Smackerel!! The Ace of Cups, after two installments, already has a new e-mail address! Can a secretary and a corner office in Manhattan be far off? E-mail us at AceDesCups@aol.com with items, comments, news good and bad. We love you so we swear we do adore you...

Creek

Continued from page 2

stands to lose if this development is approved:

• *The risks are too high.* After decades of placing buildings on top of culverted creeks, many California cities have begun to understand the risks of this approach to development—particularly in seismically unstable locations like the Bay Area. Buildings over culverts often sink, culverts can collapse, and culverted creeks may contribute to flooding downstream by increasing flows and decreasing permeable soil surfaces. Now that FEMA is increasingly unwilling to bail out neighborhoods affected by unwise development decisions, can we rely on Lucky to pay for the ensuing damage? Or will taxpayers wind up paying for this mistake, as they did when the culvert beneath Berkeley City Hall collapsed, causing thousands of dollars in damage and requiring expensive renovation? Why take this risk when properly restored creeks can handle even El Niño's torrents with ease? It makes no sense to spend time and money to uncover the branch of Baxter Creek recently daylighted in Poinsett Park and then destroy this downstream branch, which has never flooded in its present location, by burying it underground.

• *The initial and ongoing costs*

are too high. Many American cities have begun to compare the exorbitant costs of culverting creeks to the reasonable costs of creek restoration. On the one hand, standard 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe for creek culverting costs \$110 per foot. This figure does not include the costs of installing, maintaining, and repairing the pipe. On the other hand, creek restoration costs only \$100 per foot, including labor, material, plantings, and maintenance. The Redevelopment Agency will be using taxpayer money to subsidize this development. Why shouldn't our hard-earned dollars be spent in the most sensible and economical way possible?

• *The environmental costs are too high.* After centuries of abuse, wetlands have finally been recognized as crucial natural environments that promote flood control, replenish and purify groundwater supplies, and provide essential habitat for birds, fish, wildlife, and vegetation. Last week, the Executive Board of the Contra Costa Sierra Club passed a resolution supporting the preservation and restoration of Baxter Creek and its surrounding habitat, and the El Cerrito City Council publicly announced its intention to make the restoration of Baxter and Cerrito creeks a priority this year. Lucky's proposal is hardly a creek restoration, however. Restoration

involves improving what exists, not destroying half of it. Berkeley, San Leandro, Santa Rosa, and San Luis Obispo are just a few of the California cities that have restored and enhanced their creeks without destroying them.

• *The costs to our children are too high.* UC Davis researchers have concluded that children are more creative and content at play in natural settings than fabricated playgrounds. Because children are running out of opportunities to experience nature in urban areas, we can set an example for other communities by preserving remaining stretches of open creeks and restoring surrounding habitat at modest cost. Open space near the border of El Cerrito and Richmond is rapidly disappearing. A creekside park south of Lucky Market, extending to the west side of San Pablo Ave., would create a graceful gateway from one city to the next and provide a hospitable rest stop for users of the Ohlone Greenway.

This year, El Cerritos face a development decision that will define our values for years to come. Will we erect a monument to consumerism by allowing Lucky to expand its store on top of Baxter Creek? Or will we save one of the last open spaces left in the city by rejecting this development and preserving the creek in a natural riparian park?

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Treasures and Tradition at Elmwood Gallery

Isaac Bashavis Singer wrote, "The greatness of art is not found in what is common, but what is unique." A visit to The Elmwood Gallery will give you the opportunity to experience just that. The unique display of artistry found here has been collected by a professional team of proprietors who bring two decades of tradition to a well-established neighborhood. Owners Eesa Mokri and Allen Shaghaghli met some eighteen years ago. Mr. Shaghaghli is a fourth generation Oriental rug merchant with a business that spanned the continents. He and Mr. Mokri met in San Francisco where they decided to pool their resources and offer their art dealing expertise to the community of Berkeley. The Elmwood Gallery specializes in quality European and Oriental rugs, textiles, custom-crafted pine furniture, paintings and artifacts. Unique rugs and tapestries are also part of the fine offerings you will find there. "Most of our inven-

tory is either imported or purchased locally," says Shaghaghli. We are always searching to purchase antique rugs and paintings which contribute to our constantly changing exhibitions."

If you are merely browsing, you can expect a low pressure, museum setting where knowledgeable staff are available to educate you about their inventory. "This is a haggle free atmosphere where the client is not obligated to purchase," says Shaghaghli. We guarantee low prices with a trade and exchange policy."

The Elmwood Gallery also provides museum quality restoration, conservation, cleaning and appraisals with in-house financing. They plan to build an exquisite showroom to meet the quality needs of their clientele. Inspiration can always be found here and new artists are always encouraged to submit their works.

The wisdom of four generations comes through at Elmwood

BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

Gallery.

"Our service will not end with a hand shake," Shaghaghli says. We will continue to take an honest approach to the ancient trade of Oriental rugs and artifacts for years to come."

Visit the Elmwood Gallery to purchase, refurbish or simply enjoy the art work at 2635 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley.

Hours are: Tues. - Sat. 11 - 6, Sunday 12 - 5. Call for information about free workshops at 548-2247.

For information on the Business Focus, call Advertising at 339-4030.



See Walter. Walter loves to go to the fair. Walter loves to win ribbons. Bob is Walter's friend. Bob takes Walter to the fair. Bob's truck breaks down.

Walter is sad. Bob is so smart. He reads the Classifieds. He finds a new truck. See Bob take Walter to the fair. See Walter. See Walter show off.

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E.A. Hammel

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University of California, Berkeley

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■ Goings On About Town

■ **Submissions to Goings on About Town**
must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Ongoing

Winter programs for Children at Berkeley's Central Library; Mondays at 10:30 a.m.; through April 6; Baby Bounce, the programs include stories, songs and fingerplays for the baby and toddler, includes the words to the songs and activities to bring home; Family Storytimes for 2-7 year olds and their parents, take place every Saturday, 10:30-11 a.m., through April 4.

The Senin Foundation for Japanese Cultural Arts hosts Martial Arts for Kids, Monday through Thursday, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.; Ages 5-14, instruction in aiki-jujutsu, yoga, healing arts and fine arts for Mom & Dad. 1053 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 526-7518.

Classes

Feb. 26

Seed and Seed Treatments; 7-9:30 p.m.; enrich your understanding of seeds and increase your skill in propagating with them with Martin Grantham, UCBG Horticulturist; part two of the class Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; University of California Botanical Garden, 643-2755.

Vista Community College

Feb. 20 and 27; "Quick books for Small and Mid-Sized Businesses"; 5-9 p.m. in rm. 203 at Vista. \$64. Call Mildred Stewart for reservations and information, 841-8860 x. 256.

Feb. 28; "In-House Tour Operations", 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; covering how to book tours, calendaring, dealing with suppliers, deposits and final payments.

Feb. 28; "Financial Planning and Investing for your Future"; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; demonstrating investment strategies designed to lead to a secure financial future. \$25.

At Vista, rm. 303, 2020 Milvia St. between University and Addison, Berkeley. 841-8860, ext. 213. \$6.50 each for CA residents.

March 2

French classes for adults; at the Alliance Francaise East Bay. All levels, native teachers. 2004 Woolsey St., Berkeley, 548-1520.

Ongoing

Folk Dancing every Friday night at 8 p.m.; at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains, 1831 Solano Ave., Berkeley; 528-1958; \$7-\$9.

just south of Solano Ave. Lessons taught at the beginning of the evening - Balkan, Greek, Israeli, Armenian, International till 9 p.m.; Requests and dancing 9-11 p.m. \$4.

La Peña Cultural Center; free Afro-Cuban Youth Performance Ensemble. Musician Guillermo Cespedes will teach an Afro-American music workshop for youth every Monday; experience not required. For more information, call Sylvia at 849-2568, ext. 16.

Adult Cuban Music Ensemble; 6-8 p.m.; Students will play popular Cuban music. \$12 per class. Open to instrumentalists and singers.

Berkeley Yoga Center offers a free introductory Yoga class the first Friday evening, every month and other free Friday evening events where people can come together in the spirit of community. Call for details, 649-9812.

Yoga at Noon; Thursdays and Fridays until 1 p.m.; Classes include stretching exercises, seated and moving meditation, healing arts, and breathing exercises. Japanese Yoga classes are also offered; Sennin Foundation Center for Japanese Cultural Arts, 11053 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 526-7518.

Berkeley Yoga Center offers free introductory Yoga classes and other free events every Friday from 7:30 p.m.; 1250 Addison St., suite 209, Berkeley; Call 649-9812 for a full schedule of classes and workshops.

Health, Fitness & Community Education; classes open to all in salsa, flamenco, ballroom, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, modern jazz, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, karate, self-defense, fitness boxing, and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 848-6370; \$7-\$10 drop in fees.

Salsa Lessons; 7-8 p.m., beginners; 8-9 p.m., intermediate; Steve Friedman gives Salsa dance lessons every Monday night at the Francis Alblair Community Center, 2800 Park St., Berkeley; 287-9501; \$7 for one, \$12 for both lessons.

No Sweat Aerobic & Dance Studio

Tribal Bellydance with "Luna" Sundays at 10:15 a.m. & Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Latin Rhythms with Tedje Rose Sundays 12:30 p.m. & Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Brazilian Dance with Conceicao Sundays at 11:30 a.m.; Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15 a.m.

World Beat Workout by Kristi Rudolf Saturday at 11:30 a.m.; Monday at 5:30 p.m. & Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

1831 Solano Ave., Berkeley; 528-1958; \$7-\$9.

Community Events

Feb. 26
Showcase '98; 5-8 p.m.; The Berkeley, Emeryville and Richmond Chambers of Commerce will host this trade show and mixer featuring 50 booths and a great opportunity to learn about local businesses and community organizations, at the Radisson Hotel Berkeley Marina, 200 Marina Blvd. A Free event.

International House; African American Heritage Banquet; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; all you can eat buffet feast of "soul food" and specialties from Africa and the Caribbean; \$7; 642-9456. 2299 Piedmont

■ New York Times Magazine Puzzle

INDIAN CORN

BY FRED PISCOP / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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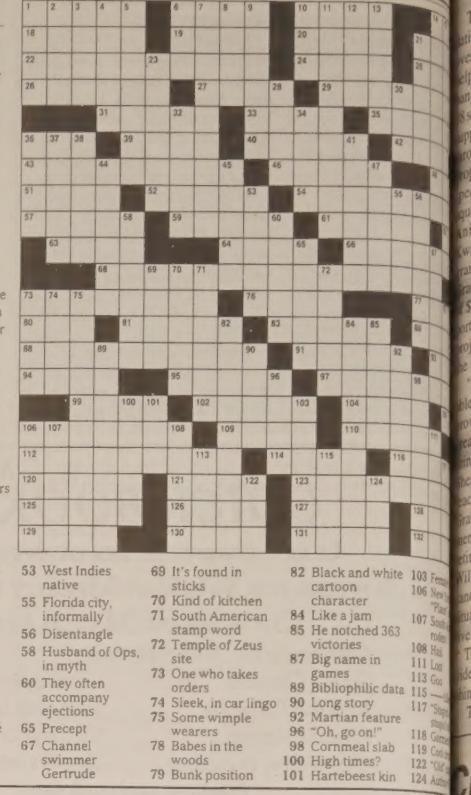
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Ave., Berkeley. **Berkeley Public Library**; 7:30; dancing/words/talking 2: Conversation with Artist from South Africa and Nigeria; South Branch, 1901 Russell St.

Feb. 28

The International Socialist Organization; 10 a.m.; 3rd annual California Socialist Conference at UC Berkeley, Evans Hall, Room 10, at Bancroft and College St., Berkeley, Workshops are in Barrows Hall off Sproul Plaza, (415) 206-9146 or 986-1403 for advance tickets; \$5 in advance, \$10 on the 28th. **Berkeley High School Women's Crew**; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Annual Ergathon to raise \$10,000 for equipment; 50 Girls to row 4,000 miles on rowing machines at the Berkeley Store, Gallery at 2295 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, for more information call Eliza Miller at 843-5823 or Molly Mugnoli at 524-2783.

Mar. 1

"Celebrate the Gifts of Women"; 10 a.m.; led by women of all ages, adult study, following the coffee hour, will

focus on five women in our midst. At St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley.

North Berkeley Senior Center:

Feb. 25; docent tour of Rhapsodies in Black, Art of the Harlem Renaissance; \$21.

Feb. 26; 1:15 p.m.; Black History Celebration; Castlemont High School Ensemble will sing and refreshments served.

Feb. 27; 1 p.m.; Protect your life savings after your spouse goes into nursing home, with Richmond Polikoff.

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.; Trip Mobile

- Get your CA passes and BART tickets from Trip Mobile. 1901 Hearst and MLK Jr. Way, 644-6107.

Kensington 55+ Activity Center

Feb. 26; 11 a.m.; Travel with Jackie Hetman, slides of the South Coast of Spain; Great Books discussion after lunch Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Call for the regular weekly schedule. 526-9146. Jan. 25

Ongoing

UC Researchers invite volunteers to take different kind of vacation. For something more meaningful or more adventurous, accompany professional researchers and scientists and increase world knowledge of animals, plants, ecosystems and ancient cultures. Pay your own way as a tax deduction. Contact UREP at 642-6586 for more information.

Abi Cable presents **On the Move**, a television show produced by and for the disabled community. Broadcast on KTEH Channel 54, PBS in Santa Clara County, Mon., Tues., and Sat. at 6:30 p.m.; on BTV Channel 25, 408-720-8069 for more information.

Volunteers are needed at the Alameda County Community Food Bank to help feed the hungry and homeless by sorting food or participating in food drives or other special events. Call 568-3668 ext. 308 for more information and cur-

rent schedule. **Volunteers needed** for Free Folk Festival, scheduling for March 10, 1998. Two full days of main stage showcasing local musicians. Call 843-3810.

Parents Need Support can make a difference! Become a Hotline Counselor at Parent Service, Inc. Weekdays, one hour per week. Free 30-hour training Sat. and Sun., March 14-15.

The Open House volunteers needed to work with Alzheimer's Respite.

Program each Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for text.

Sakura Kai; meets on the

See GOING

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Hopalong Animal Rescue

Donations are tax-deductible.



Give me another chance

The city shelter can only keep stray pets a few days. Their future would be grim if it weren't for Hopalong Animal Rescue, which adopts as many as it can and finds homes for them. In the past year, no adoptable cat has been put

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AEF announces Mini-Grants

The Albany Education Foundation announces the awarding of over \$10,000 in Mini-Grants to help fund 30 programs in the Albany School District for the 1997-98 school year. These Mini-Grants support a wide variety of programs throughout the District. This year's proposals included requests for special "Senior Motor," P.E. equipment, musical instruments, Animal Tracking Workshop, Kwanzaa cultural enrichment program and several field trips. Mini-Grants are for a maximum amount of \$750 for direct classroom support, with funding for this year's projects ranging from \$50.00 to the full \$750.

"AEF Mini-Grant funding enables us to do the extra things that provide the kind of activities that create a permanent memory in the minds of the children," says Fran Sheppard, Albany Middle School teacher. Sheppard used her Mini-Grant to fund the Kwanzaa enrichment program. The grant allowed Albany teacher Vernola Williams to bring the music, the candle lighting and the symbolic rituals of Kwanzaa in an interactive format to the sixth grade class. The Kwanzaa experience provides an excuse to let the kids dance," Sheppard said.

This is the third consecutive

Chamber

Continued from page 6
Member of Chamber of Commerce, are providing local residents information on new rules regarding Individual Retirement Accounts. A company representative was there that since last year there

Obituary

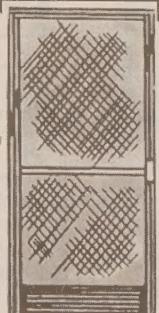
Caroline Werle dies at 96

Longtime Albany resident Caroline Werle died Feb. 20 in Berkeley at age 96.

Werle was born June 9, 1901 in Langen, Germany. She was the wife of the late Albert Werle and was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church. She is survived by her son, Albert

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Hills

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One coupon per person
expires 2/28/98

Hills

El Cerrito High Casino Night is March 21

El Cerrito High School's annual Casino Night will be held Saturday, March 21 at the El Cerrito Community Center from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Reserve your place now for this popular event sponsored by the West Contra Costa County Education Fund. Free hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be available, along with a no host wine and beer bar.

Emphasis is given in the selection process to those programs that will serve the widest range of students for the money funded, and it is a goal that all of the sites in the Albany school system are equally funded.

Prizes will be awarded throughout the evening and for the "big winners" at the end of the evening. There will also be a general raffle during the event.

The tables are run by a professional group and instruction is provided for non-gamblers.

People receive "fake money" at the door which is included in the price of their tickets, and more script is available throughout the evening at a discount price for those who lose their original stake and wish to continue "gambling."

This is a social evening, a chance to meet faculty, staff, other parents and returning alumni.

Many businesses have already helped by sponsoring a table or part of a table, however, sponsors and prize donors are still needed. Tables, which are sponsored by local businesses at \$200 each cover the cost of the evening, which frees ticket and drink sale profits for school programs.

Those interested in donating prizes or in sponsoring a table, or even half a table, should contact Louise O'Dea at 526-8169.

Casino Night is El Cerrito High's largest fundraiser. All proceeds will go to each of the departments who have expressed a "wish" for special educational items above and beyond what they might expect to come out of the district budget monies. In this way all of the students can expect to benefit. An example of a wish is for another "dedicated phone line" which can inform parents by automated dialer of school events and other important information, which in turn would free up the existing phone line to concentrate on letting parents know if their child has missed school on a particular day.

To reserve your tickets contact Louise O'Dea at 526-8169. Tickets cost \$23 per person.

The Casino Night Committee wishes to thank the following businesses that have sponsored tables, or donated prizes: Dr. Poor Paws Pet Hospital; Black, Brown & Lanier, Attorneys; Silver Screen Video; Bank of the West; Kenneth Brechner, DMD, MS; Michael L. Doucet, DDS; Soroptimist International of El Cerrito; Domino's Pizza; Marvin Gardens Real Estate; El Cerrito Medical; Al Caruso Insurance; Abbey Carpet; Chapman & Gough, General Contractors; The Glenn Custom Framing; Edward M. Matsuishi, DDS., Inc.; Pastime Hardware; Larry Seidell Chevron; Nations; Hotel Mac; Lalimes; Walden Books; V. G. White Jewelers; Oakland As; Beadazzled and Larry Parks.

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883-2111

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Oakland
534-2100

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Jack Russell Terrier

Male - Lost or stolen from Golden Gate Fields Racetrack.

White with brown mask and brown spot on left hind leg.

Reward for information leading

to his recovery

(408) 595-0625

(408) 659-1836

(408) 649-0330

"40-30-30 Fat Burning Nutrition"

FREE SEMINAR

Join us for an evening with Gene & Joyce Daoust, the nutritionists who worked with Dr. Barry Sears in developing

The Zone Diet

that is sweeping the nation.

Tuesday, March 3

7:30-9:30 p.m.

510/428-1182
5770 Shellmound, Emeryville

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City of Albany

We Need Your Input

for the

Citywide Transportation Plan!



Albany is moving ahead with a Citywide Transportation Plan! Over the next several months, there will be a series of Citywide and neighborhood meetings to listen to Albany residents' concerns about transportation. The Transportation Plan will be developed from your input on traffic and safety concerns and community transportation needs.

Please join us for the first Citywide meeting on

Tonight at 7:00 p.m.

The Community Room

Albany Community Center

1249 Marin Avenue

Hosted by the Traffic and Safety Commission

For more information, please call the Community Development & Environmental Resources Department at 528-5760.

HILLS PUBLICATIONS Page 9

Goings...

Continued from page 8

Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., please write to 10890 San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito, CA 94530 for our regular weekly calendar. For more info call 465-9323.

Moms in Community: Mothers encouraging and supporting each other to be their best, grow spiritually, intellectually and socially; Meet new people and build lasting Christian friendships; Share the joys and challenges of parenting; Relax with a great group of diverse women; Fridays 9:30-11:30. Childcare begins at 9:15 a.m. First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 2407 Dana St. Voicemail: 848-6252 ext. 558

Cars for a Cure: help children and adults suffering from devastating digestive diseases by donating your used car, truck or motorhome to the Crohn's and Colitis foundation of America, Inc. (Greater Bay Area Chapter). All proceeds directly benefit programs, services and research to find a cure; (415) 578-6590 or 1-800-3-AUTO-77.

Volunteers needed: Crisis support Services of Alameda County, formerly Suicide Prevention, receives nearly 50,000 calls per year and the need for people to serve the 24-hour crisis lines is constant. No prior experience required,

training provided; 848-1515.

Volunteers needed to work in the Alzheimer's Respite Social Day Care program, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. No experience necessary; call Ellen, 215-4340 for more information.

Exhibits

Feb. 28

Exhibit of Children's Art and Writing Projects from Malcolm X School: 2-4 p.m.; through March 21; Visual Arts/Language Arts: A Project for kids in the Public Schools (VALA) worked with three classes in a seven week program and is now showing at the Berkeley Store Gallery, 2295 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, For info call Tina Rotenberg, 845-9610.

March 2

Winterland II: through March 29; an exhibit by Bay Area photographer, Bob Seewein features a series of photos from the Yosemite Valley in winter; opening reception is Mar. 6 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.; At the UC Faculty Club, 284-2475 for further information.

March 3

Andy Levy: through March 30; an exhibit of semi-abstract portraits, figures and still lifes in watercolor; Madame's Gallery, 2748 Adeline in Berkeley, opposite the Berkeley Bowl. For more information call 326-4613.

March 4

Old Masters Prints at the GTU: 5 - 7 p.m.; through April 5; The Flora

Ongoing

The Other Self ; through April 5; works on paper by Helen Berger, Sally Weare and Shane Weare, three accomplished Bay area artists exploring the human condition and identity; Live Oak Park in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto; 1275 Walnut St., 644-6893. Admission is free.

The paintings of watercolorist A.T. Klash: through March 18; San Pablo Arts, One Alvarado Square, San Pablo. 215-3030.

Exhibition of recent Paintings by Adriana Diaz: through April 10. A reception for the Artist on Saturday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; University Lutheran Chapel, 2425 College Ave., 215-3206.

"Jewish Pictorial Carpets from the Anton Felton Collection, London" through April 19. A premier American exhibition of the world-renowned, semi-annual collection of Jewish pictorial carpets from Persia and the Jewish workshops of prestate Israel; 2911 Russell St., 549-9635.

Simple Pleasures: through March 8; a group exhibition featuring work in a variety of media by six Bay Area artists: Dennis Begg, Lynn Beldner, Amy Berk, Galen Brown, Michael Damm, and Melissa Herman; Traywick Gallery, 1316 Tenth St., near Gilman; call Katrina Traywick or Robin Galas at 527-1214 for more info.

Human Comedy: Lithographs by Honore Daumier: through Mar. 29. An exhibition by French satirical printmaker Honore Daumier (1808-1879) in the Theater Gallery.

Hogarth and His Times: Serious Comedy: through April 19; works by William Hogarth, English Satirical printmaker.

Lamson Hewlett Library at the Graduate Theological Union features a display of woodcuts, engravings and etchings from the collection of Harry and Herta Weinstein. The exhibit includes works by major artists from the early sixteenth century; 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, 649-2420.

Wayne Miller, Black Chicago, 1946-1948; through March 14; From a collection of over 500 photographs, Miller, now 78, has decided on 70 from his Chicago study of black families in the South city to exhibit at the Graduate School of Journalism, 1212 North Gate Hall, #5860, Berkeley; 642-4825, or Wayne Miller himself at 254-3984.

"The Louis Stein Collection: The Neighborhoods of Berkeley"; through April; a new exhibit of the Berkeley Historical Society looks at Berkeley's neighborhoods and the UC-Berkeley campus in the form of photographs and other material; Berkeley Historical Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 1931 Center St.; 848-0181.

Berkeley Art Museum

Human Comedy: Lithographs by Honore Daumier: through Mar. 29. An exhibition by French satirical printmaker Honore Daumier (1808-1879) in the Theater Gallery.

Hogarth and His Times: Serious Comedy: through April 19; works by William Hogarth, English Satirical printmaker.

Lectures and Workshops

Feb. 26

Love and Suffering: 7 - 9 p.m.; exploring the meaning of the cross for Christian spiritual life and social action, a three week lecture series led by Janet Gear, MA, M.Div., 231-5943; hosted by the Duran House, 2330 Durant Ave., Berkeley, \$30.

La Peña Cultural Center: 7:30 p.m.; "Suppressed Histories: Sahar/Sahel. Ancient Saharan murals and megaliths." Tuareg mother-right, dogon cosmology. Ceramics of Mali and Chad. Fulani arts, female muralist of the Sahel. West African Scripts. Timbuktu and more. Presented by Max Dashu. At 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 849-2568. \$5-10.

Feb. 27

The City Commons Club presents: "Epilepsy" with Grange S. Coffin, M.D., Physician. Luncheon Lecture series. Featuring Lunch and Social Hour starting at 11:15 a.m.; Speaker starts at 12:30 p.m.; At 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 848-3533 or 845-4725 for reservations and information. \$1 admission with coffee, students are free.

Feb. 28

"Don't take it Personally! The Art of Dealing with Rejection"; noon - 1:30 p.m.; with Elayne Savage, Ph.D., book signing to follow lecture-discussion. At the Center for Psychological Studies, 1398 Solano Ave., Albany, 524-0291.

Feb. 29 and Mar. 1

"Geologic and Paleontological Sonning for Life on Other Planets"; with Dr. Peter Ward, Ph.D., Geologist and Paleontologist, University of Washington, Seattle, 2050 Valley Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, for more info.

Mar. 3

William Drummond explores thefluence of Media on Shaping Identity"; 7:30 p.m.; part of See GOINGS...

Night: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Bill conceptual artist, sculptor, speaks on the evolution of his projects that are part of the Annual Art-in-Print program. Kennedy University Arts, San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, of Ashby, 2nd floor, 649-0499.

Alliance Francaise Paris culture and slide presentation. Young couple circles the world on their scooters." 2004 Woolsey St., Call 548-1520 to verify location, a reservation; \$8.

An Evening and Daylong Retreat with Sylvia Bonneville 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; an introduction to the theory and practice that will be on Sun., 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Call Halev, 2525 8th St., #13, Berkeley, 9687. \$75 for both events.

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Goings...

continued from page 10
 "How to Be an American" series.; the
 house, UC Berkeley Campus,
 for students.
 The "Photograph as a Voice in Con-
 vention" show slides and discuss how photo-
 graphy has aided conservation efforts
 by book signing and reception
 at the Graduate School of Journalism,
 and Euclid in North Gate Hall, UC
 Berkeley, 642-3383.
Turning Point Career Center
 Turning Point, 10-11 a.m.; "The Network-
 Hour for an Environmental Career";
 Mar. 5, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; "Assess your
 interests using the COPS Inven-
 tory"; \$15
 Feb. 26; 10-11 a.m.; "The Network-
 Hour for the Arts"; \$5
 Mar. 3, 3-4 p.m.; "Interviewing with
 Confidence"; \$5 for non-members.
 Mar. 24 p.m.; "Resume Styles the
 Right Way"; \$5 for non-members.
 Mar. 4-7-9 p.m.; "Opportunities and
 Earnings your Gifts"; the fourth of five
 evenings for writers, musicians and art-
 ists; by Irina Rivkin, M.S. in counsel-
 ing; \$15 for individual sessions.
 Mar. 5, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; "Assess your

Values using Schein's Career Anchors";
 \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.

Mar. 5, 12 and 19, 4-5 p.m.; "The Joy
 of not Working." Cartoons, diagrams and
 exercises will guide the presentations,
 \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members
 for the 3 week series.

2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 848-
 6370

Literary Events

Black Oak Books

Feb. 26; 7:30 p.m.; Alice McDermott,

Charming Billy

1491 Shattuck Ave. at Vine, Berke-
 ley; 468-0698

GAIA Bookstore and Community

Center

Feb. 26; 7:30 p.m.; William Frances

Devine, *Women, Men and Money*

Feb. 27; 7:30 p.m.; Carol Lee Flinders,

At the Root of This Longing

March 2; 7:30 p.m.; Kim Addonizio,

The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the

Pleasures of Writing Poetry

March 3; 7 p.m.; Letha Hadady and

Michael Foster, *Magic, Mystery and*

Medicine

March 4; 7:30 p.m.; Justin Willis

Toms and Michael Toms: *True Work:*

*The Sacred Dimension of Earning a Liv-
 ing*

March 5; 7:30 p.m.; Barbara Marx

Hubbard: *Conscious Evolution*.

1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 848-

GAIA

**Easy Going Travel Shop & Book-
 store**

March 3; 7:30 p.m.; Christopher

Baker, *Cuba Handbook*.

March 5; 7:30 p.m.; Allen Bechky,

Adventuring in Southern Africa.

1385 Shattuck Ave. At Rose, Berke-
 ley, 843-3533.

Poetry Flash at Cody's

March 4; 7:30 p.m.; Contributor's

reading to celebrate *Beside the Sleeping*

Maiden: Poets of Marin. Proceeds to go

to California Poets in the schools in Marin

County and the Marin Poetry center. \$2.

2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 845-

7842.

La Pena Cultural Center's Poetry

Feb. 28; Plum City Players present

songs and stories for the young and old.

10:30 a.m.;

March 4; 7:30 p.m.; Cafe Poetry and

Open Mic in the Cafe; \$2.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 849-

2568.

Meetings

Feb. 28

**American Schizophrenia Associa-
 tion**

7:30 p.m.; Alliance for the Mentally

III (ASA-AMI) bimonthly meeting, topic

of discussion is Alameda County's New

Mental Health Plan. Dr. Stan Taubman,

Director of Management Services,

Alameda County Department of Behavioral

Care. At University Christian

Church, 2401 Le Conte at Scenic Ave. in
 Berkeley, 841-8361 for more info. Free.

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Whales, dolphins, birds, fish, plants, sand, rocks shells

We thought we were on the Sea of Cortez, but William, our wonderful Mexican naturalist, became very red of face when he heard that phrase. We were on the Gulf of California, he stated, and never should this beautiful area be used to honor the Spanish conqueror who only conquered because he was blond and resembled the blond God Quetzalcoatl.

So, we were on a ship in the Gulf of California, with about 90 other people who were excited and delighted to be, at last, in this sparsely inhabited area that is part of Mexico, yet quite apart from it, that is inhabited in a few locations (mostly in the North near the border of U.S.) but wild and barren for the most part. Baja California, after you leave the cities such a Tijuana, Ensenada and La Paz, is truly a foreign country. And one treads lightly hoping never to cause it to change.

The major reason for our being on the ship, in the Gulf of California, was our quest to see the great whales. At this time of the year the whales come to the warmer waters of the Gulf to give birth to the babies that were conceived during the winter in Alaska and points North. This year, with El Niño changing so many things, many of the whales were late arriving because the waters along the coast of California were warmer than usual, and some babies were being born there.

But they didn't disappoint us. Few of the giant blue whales show themselves in this area, but the humpback and gray whales are there in abundance. On our second day out a shout from the bow informed us that humpback whales had been seen. It was very early in the morning, and most of us had not really gotten ready for the day. We dashed up on deck in whatever we could throw on, with nothing silly like makeup, and with hats to cover our uncombed hair. And it was worth it.

In the ocean, first at a distance from us and then, as the ship turned in their direction, and as they became aware of us, quite close to the ship, the whales blew, jumped and dived amid our cries of "over there," "oh, look at that one," and "God, how beautiful!" Dr. John Heyning, Curator of Mammals at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, gave us a fascinating lecture on the humpback, even as we watched them. So we knew when they dived they would not reappear for some 10 or more minutes because they had gone to the bottom to take mouthfuls (gallons) of water filled with the small organisms that are their primary nourishment. Of course, while one dived, others would be up for air and take a minute to see what all the noise was on that large white ship that followed them wherever they went.

So active were our huge friends that we could hardly bare to go below and leave them. The staff even offered to serve us breakfast on deck so that we should miss none of the excitement. However, most of us could not imagine eating our breakfast in

the cold and wind that prevailed, and few stayed longer on deck. The whales seemed to sense the diminishing audience, and swam away from the ship.

It was some days later that, in our little Zodiacs (the rubber boats that take us from the ship to wherever we want to go — or the staff wants to take us) we visited with the smaller gray whales in another part of those wonderful waters. Most of the gray whales were mommies and babies. The moms were teaching their young how to find the food so abundant in that area. They, too, gulped gallons of water as they dived to the bottom of the waters. These creatures, though, strained their food out with a very simple but effective system that took little time and effort. So after they dived they came up for air in a shorter time. And as most of them were young and curious, they gave us many opportunities for snapping their pictures. They never did get close enough to our little boats for us to touch them, as we had hoped (and as they had last year when a friend had taken this trip), but they did cavort close enough for us to get a good sight of them. Our shouts of, "Over there. A spout!" and "oh, wow!" probably drew them. And the staff, steering the boats, were quick to steer and change course when a whale was sighted.

But what intrigued me even more were the dolphins — sea mammals, indeed, but smaller and cuddlier. They really did frolic and cavort about our boats, teasing us by going beneath us and coming up on the other side, jumping over each other, and generally letting us know that they were playing with us, and wasn't this fun. Since the ship used a buddy system when we were out on the Zodiacs, there were always two fairly close to each other. And the dolphins knew it. They would dive beneath our boat, and come out in the small area between boats, there to do their happy dance for the edification and joy of all of us. I didn't want to leave them, even to see their cousins, the gray whales. But the whales were what we had come to see, so we did leave them and follow the ebbs and flows that indicated the presence of the whales.

Wonderful and delightful as they were, the whales, although the real reason we were all there, were not the only attractions. The several naturalists on the ship were an enthusiastic, active lot, and their excitement was contagious. So when we saw a different bird it was, "Larry, look. What is that?" And Larry could always find the bird and usually identify him. Our geologist was an utter delight and her wit and wisdom were always there. The aforementioned William, a botanist, was mostly into plants, and they so invigorated him that even on our very last day, as we took a bus to take us back to La Paz, we had to stop to see a different cactus that is found only in that very small space on that very small peninsula (it looked for all the world like a rolled up burrito).

All this and I haven't mentioned the sand dunes (our group walked across one set from the bay, to the

other side which fronted on the Pacific ocean); or the one day of storm when our little ship was tossed and battered by heavy seas and high winds. It was so exciting to feel ourselves raised on a giant swell, only to slap down on the other side. Exciting, but in no danger. The MV Sea Lion was a strong, seaworthy little ship. Interestingly, the captain and most of the crew were women. Young, tanned and friendly, they made us all proud. All of the crew, male and female sang

the wonders of Captain Jill. And often it was her strong wrist that we clasped to climb out of the water. (Did I mention the snorkeling? great. Fascinating fish, many of which we had never seen before).

Whales, dolphins, birds, fish, plants, sand, rocks and shells. All these and the company of like-minded people, bright, interesting naturalists and a crew dedicated to our comfort. What more can anyone want?

We had taken this trip through the

Community Folk

By Clara Rae Genser



Travel Program of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Dr. John Heyning was our leader. A great trip.

I invite all of you to give me your

ideas of interesting people, organizations, travel, write to me at 555 Piercy, Albany, CA 94706 or call. My email is crgenser@u...

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SPORTS

February 26, 1998 HILLS PUBLICATIONS Page 13

BHS has clear path toward state title

Jelani Harper

ay a little early to prevent from this side of things it is if the Lady Yellowjackets

day. But the Jackets have already beaten both teams twice this year, and should have no problem beating the Mustangs for a third time.

In fact, the EBAL playoffs are

Just consider the facts. The Jackets are the defending Div. 1 state champions and have just won another league title.

They begin EBAL this tonight against Monte who beat Livermore Tues-

See TITLE on page 14

Gauchos out to prove their success is no fluke

Jeff Sepulveda

De Anza and St. Joseph, both of which defeated EC during the regular season.

The Gauchos were scheduled to open the playoffs Wednesday night with a rematch of this year's ACCAL opener at St. Joseph in Alameda where the most heartbreaking of their losses came this year. EC dropped a 52-48 decision after holding a double digit lead in the fourth quarter.

In the first matchup vs. St. Joe, EC held McDonald's All American forward Ray Young to a single point in the first half, but couldn't contain star guard Rene Jacques in the fourth quarter, as he burned the Gauchos

See FLUKE on page 15



St. Mary's all-league selection Spring Harris scored half her team's points against Holy Names, but it wasn't enough.

Cougars play part of spoiler at season's end

By Jelani Harper

Who said it couldn't be done?

Last Friday, in their final game of the season, Albany's boy's basketball team got to play the part of the spoiler. The Cougars (6-20, 2-9

ACCAL) went against all odds and defeated Salesian 53-50, thereby simultaneously knocking them out of first place and picking up their second win of the season.

"The kids played very, very

See SPOILER on page 15

Cougars' hopes dry up in loss to Piedmont

By Jelani Harper

Well, at least it wasn't El Nino. Or the threatened cancellation of the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League playoffs, either. No, in the end it was plain old Piedmont that beat the Lady Cougars, and effectively brought Albany's soccer season to a close.

The Cougars can at least take some small consolation in that fact, seeing as they endured a turbulent season plagued by bad weather conditions and injuries. And endure the Cougars did until they fell, 3-1, last Friday to Piedmont in the semifinal round of the ACCAL playoffs.

But the Cougars have a lot to look back on with pride this past season: they finished third in league and demolished Salesian 5-1 in the opening round of the playoffs. And perhaps more importantly, for at least 15 minutes they looked to be moving past Piedmont into the ACCAL finals on the strength of Suzanna Martinez's second-half goal.

Martinez, the team captain, scored on a direct kick from nearly 35 yards out in practically the same spot she scored on a similar free

kick two weeks ago against De Anza. It was a beauty of a shot, dipping just underneath the cross bar into the back of the neck.

But then, apparently, the Cougars made Piedmont mad. Piedmont's players noticeably picked up their pace, taking more and more frequent outside shots and testing the durability of Cougar keeper Elizabeth Watty.

First they scored on a cross from the left wing, then roughly 10 minutes later midfielder Courtney Linden scored on a ball that had rebounded off of Watty. The corner kick goal two minutes later was merely the icing on the cake.

"I think my team performed well, there was equal dominance in the first half, but we didn't capitalize on our opportunities in front of the goal in the second half," coach Julie Gall said. "Mentally I think we kind of fell out of the game."

"But we had a very positive season this year," she continued. "I think we made a lot of progress and Albany should have a very strong team next year, there's plenty of strong young talent."

The waiting game

Panther girls stopped by HN SM boys net top seed in ACCAL

By Jeff Sepulveda

Limbo. That's where the St. Mary's girls' basketball team sits with its third place ACCAL Powerhouse division finish and 18-8 record as it awaits Sunday's North Coast Section seeding meeting where it will make its case for a Division 4 at-large bid.

SM will apply for one of approximately 12 at-large bids. Selection criteria include an NCS mandated winning record and/or a winning record against Division 4 foes.

According to SM coach Don Lawson, the Panthers should advance. "Our record should be good enough," he said. "From what I've been able to unearth, we're one of about 14-15 teams which are eligible to apply, and we've beaten some of those teams head to head."

One of the teams which will be applying is Piedmont, the ACCAL Powerhouse Division

fourth place team. In a matchup where playoff implications were clearly on the line, SM defeated Piedmont this past Friday 43-39, with Desirea English leading the scoring with 12 points, while senior Stacey Touson contributed 11.

"We knew there were playoff ramifications on the line," Lawson said. "Now we can make the case that if it comes down to us or Piedmont that we should go to North Coast."

SM's bid for an automatic playoff berth, which accompanies winning the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League postseason playoffs, ended Tuesday night with a 42-26 loss to Holy Names. Spring Harris scored 13 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Panthers who fell behind early and struggled offensively the entire game.

Against HN, in a game played

See WAITING on page 14

Albany girls hoops looking to the future

By Jelani Harper

They played their final game of the season last Friday, and came within one point of getting their first real victory in league play (their lone win came on a forfeit against Richmond). Still, it was a great ef-

See FUTURE on page 15

Soccer brawl penalty up to league principals

By Jelani Harper

During this today's Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League principal's meeting preliminary discussion will held to decide what disciplinary action will be taken following a fight between Albany and Richmond's girls' soccer teams on February 13.

Both sides have taken statements from parents and players who were at the game regarding the altercation, and Albany principal Lois Woods-Green will take these as well as a letter of her own seeking disciplinary measures to the meeting.

"Because Richmond was out on winter break last week I hadn't talked to their principal until last Monday, and they obviously have a different point of view about what happened," she remarked. "At this point it's uncertain whether this will be resolved by the ACCAL or North Coast Section."

According to Richmond coach Gonzalo Aguilera, a fight broke out late in the second half between a Richmond and Albany

player while he was tending to his goalkeeper. Aguilera claims he ran onto the field to separate the two players, at which point both benches cleared.

Richmond school district police filed a report on the incident, and according to special assistant to the superintendent officer Sylvester Greenwood, Albany's coach Julie Gall began spraying Richmond players with pepper spray.

"Albany's coach declared she was a police officer, and began spraying Richmond players with mace," he said. "I found it ironic that she was only spraying our kids (if she was trying to stop the fight). So then Richmond's parents came in to try to break things up, but the damage was already done — six kids had been sprayed."

Gall decline to comment on the altercation following the Richmond game, saying she did not want to involve her players any further in the matter.

According to an Albany Police blotter appearing in last

See BRAWL on page 15



Jeff Lindquist

Doris Mitchell gets a leg up on Piedmont defender

Dicknell, but Cougars could not put this one away.

Jackets'-style best for BHS soccer

Jelani Harper

skill level team in Castro Valley. And it just wasn't working. The Jackets fell behind a mere five minutes into the game when Castro Valley scored on a corner kick. The Jackets managed to battle their way back and level the score at halftime on a direct kick from team captain Gabe Clark, but they looked visibly uncomfortable trading long balls with Castro Valley.

"We fell into the trap of trying to play their game," explained Jacket coach Eugenio Juarez. "We were trying to force balls in the air and that was a big mistake. At half time I told the kids to calm down, and reminded them we have to control the ball and stay disciplined."

What a difference a coach makes. The Jackets took heed of Juarez's

advice and reaped the results almost instantly. They began controlling the ball out of their back field, building up through the middle with wall passes and working their way down the wings.

And then it happened. With nearly 10 minutes left to play junior Ranvir Singh collected a loose ball up front, beat two defenders and slipped the ball past the keeper to break the game wide open. Six minutes later he crossed the ball to his twin brother, Satvir Singh, who scored from six yards out to ice the game.

They were scheduled to face Logan Wednesday night. When asked what he knew about Logan, Juarez responded, "I heard they play a lot like us."

EC hits Deer Valley in NCS loss

By Jeff Sepulveda

It was ecstasy and agony week for the El Cerrito boys' soccer team. The Gauchos beat Piedmont and St. Joseph in two Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League playoff games and claimed the abbreviated postseason championship. Their reward was an automatic bid into the North Coast Section playoffs.

Celebrations didn't last long, however, as EC dropped a 1-0 decision to Deer Valley Monday night at Diablo Valley College to end the season.

"It was a tough game," said EC coach Fred Gonzalez. "We

had a lot of chances to score, but we couldn't convert. We controlled the ball most of the first half, and we played very well defensively."

Deer Valley scored the game's only goal midway through the second half on a header from a sideline throw in. "We had everybody matched up, but a guy got free," lamented Gonzalez. "Deer Valley had a good defense, and we just made one little mistake."

Overall, EC sparkled on defense. Sweeper Brad Moschetti and stopper Steve Christiansen prevented goalkeeper Paul De Lumen from facing too many

shots. EC outshot the Wolverines 12-8.

After the game, Gonzalez was philosophical. "It's disappointing. We finished the playoffs exactly where we wanted to be. Our goal the whole season was get in the playoffs, win the playoffs, and go as far as we can in North Coast. With our nine seniors, I was hoping we could go a little further."

EC qualified for North Coast by virtue of beating St. Joseph to claim the postseason ACCAL championship 3-2 at home last Friday. EC, playing without star forward Keyshawn Fielder who

See EC on page 14

EC

Continued from page 13

hurt his knee in the playoff opener against Piedmont, got two quick goals from Rigoberto Andrade and Danny Ursini.

Steve Christiansen scored midway through the second half to put EC ahead 3-0 before St. Joe launched a serious comeback attempt. St. Joe scored twice in a three minute span late in the game to strike fear into the hearts of EC fans, but the Gaucho defense held on for the victory.

"The last 10 minutes were pretty intense," said Gonzalez.

EC advanced to play St. Joe for the ACCAL postseason title by taking on Piedmont last Wednesday at home and winning 2-1.

Alex Dragos scored a first half goal on an assist by Danny Ursini to give EC a 1-0 lead. EC struck again just after halftime, this time Ursini did the honors assisted by Dragos.

According to EC coach Fred Gonzalez, the key to the victory was strong defensive and midfield play. "Danny Ursini and Matthew Kucera really played well at midfield. They controlled the ball and that was the key to the game."

Sweeper Brad Moschetti and stopper Steve Christiansen, as well as goalkeeper Paul De Lumen also stood out on the defensive end.

EC avenged a 2-1 loss to the Highlanders earlier in the season to advance to the postseason finale against St. Joe.

EC placed four seniors on the first team All-ACCAL honor roll: Danny Ursini, Steve Christiansen, Paul DeLumen, and Keyshawn Fielder. Senior Rigo Andrade and junior Brad Moschetti received Honorable Mention All-ACCAL honors.

"We had a great effort from the kids throughout the year," said Gonzalez. "It's a really great feeling to set goals and then accomplish them."

Title

Continued from page 13

NCS regulations mandate that teams must have a record of .500 or better to participate in the tournament, and according to Jacket coach Gene Nakamura only Monte Vista, Campolindo and Pinole Valley have such records. Campolindo is the only team the Jackets haven't played; in December they blew past Pinole, 72-39.

So once again, the Jackets look to have a clear path to the state championships. Monte Vista could possibly pose a challenge to the Jackets in the NCS; they barely beat them by three in the season opener, but that was their first game in two weeks and they were playing in front of a pro-Mustang crowd in San Ramon.

When the Jackets played them three weeks ago at home, they beat them by a good 15 points.

The Jackets employ a fast-paced run 'n' gun offense, with quick outlet passes and lots of open floor running.

But their defense is what sees them through the tough games; they apply a full court man-to-man press which few teams can handle for 40 minutes.

Berkeley is led by junior point guard Coriel Davis (who's started three years consecutively) and sophomore forward Aisha Hollans, who by week's end was averaging nearly 22 points per game. Senior Latifa Lewis holds things together in the middle, and Allison Nowak and Erica McGlaston complete the Jacket's line-up.

If their last game is any indication of how well prepared the Jackets are for the playoffs, then their EBAL competition best to beware. Last Friday the Jackets romped past California, 101-43, without even trying.

"We broke a hundred the last time we played them also, and we tried not too," explained Nakamura. "We played a two-three zone and let California shoot the whole second half, and we still kept scoring."

Their impending playoff competition may not be that easy, but the Jacket might have to wait until state to have a tough game.

Waiting

Continued from page 13

at Alameda High due to HN's difficulty in securing a place to play home games, the Panthers fell behind 11-8 after one quarter, then fell apart offensively in the second quarter, failing to score a single point.

HN also struggled offensively, managing only four points itself while limping to a 15-8 halftime lead.

According to Lawson, the second quarter scoring drought was due to "sloppiness on our part. Our shooting wasn't good, but we only got seven shots in the quarter."

HN extended the lead in the second half, outscoring the Panthers 15-8 in the third quarter to extend the lead to 14 points.

SM's offense picked up a bit in the second half, but not enough

to cut into the HN lead.

HN advanced to the Powerhouse title game on Friday night.

SM forward Spring received All-ACCAL honors. Desiree Edwards was named honorable mention ACCAL.

SM boys co-captain

On the boys side, SM Piedmont 65-36 last Friday clinched a tie for first place. St. Elizabeth at 6-5, despite leading the Panthers with 17 points.

SM gained the top seed in the ACCAL Powerhouse post-season playoff and playoff berth by virtue of winning St. Elizabeth during the regular season.

The SM boys were selected to host Kennedy Wednesday night and would host on Saturday if advancing.

Coaches: Fax spring rosters and schedules: 339-4066

Home Improvement & Garden

Mila Fine Arts:

20th century Israeli Art is a new gallery at 1307 Solano Avenue. The gallery is the only Israeli art gallery in the West displaying an extensive collection of over 50 Israeli artists. The art ranges from contemporary to more traditional figurative art and Judaic images. Israeli artists are shown and collected worldwide. This is a first for Northern California. Mila Fine Arts features original works on canvas and paper, fine limited edition graphics, sculpture, and fine art posters and gifts. Their gift certificate program offers something for everyone. In addition to the collection, Mila has rotating special exhibitions, currently showing 'Visions of Jerusalem,' a beautiful selection of Old City images that truly evoke the magic and spirituality of Jerusalem.

Mila Fine Arts is a community-centered business working with non-profit agencies on fundraising projects. Mila also provides a 'new collector' program, gallery tours for groups and a speakers bureau. The gallery's 2000 sq. feet make a great venue for a meeting or event!

Hours are Monday - Saturday 11-6 and Sunday 12-5 and by appointment.



Photographer Keren Tzur, images of the Old City of Jerusalem

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BARRY SEZ!

By Barry Lehrman of East Bay Nursery

First to our friends and neighbors who have suffered damage during the last few weeks, my sincere regrets, and apologies. I sure called it wrong about El Nino! Once again, the weather in California has proved even more phenomenal than even the weather forecasters or a locally famous nurseryman could predict.

However, there is a bright side to everything. When the rain stops it is not likely to rain significantly for the following 6-8 months. With that in mind I want to remind you that water frugality is still the P.C. way to garden in the Bay Area. Previous El Ninos have led to prolonged periods of drought. This is not a forecast, but fact.

If you can dig in your garden there is still time to plant plants which could have been planted earlier in the season. Plants from Mediterranean, South African, and Australian climates can utilize water during the short cool days of the year without danger. These include many winter and spring flowering shrubs, summer blooming perennials, and bulbs. Many California native plants fall into this category and can also be planted.

For those of you concerned with erosion, this is the time of the year to get a head start on the next rainy season. Planting next summer or fall is just not going to cut it. Gardening is an art that is based on hindsight and foresight. The ability to learn from the past and to act before the future occurs is one of the keys to becoming a successful gardener. So, keep your eyes open and let's all learn from this year.

**Honey Do Home Hints:
WINTER MAINTENANCE
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- > Clean gutters and check for leaky seams and unsecured hangers.
- > Make sure down spouts end at least 6 feet from the house.
- > Check skylights and antenna mounts for leakage.
- > Look for cracked or loose mortar from the fireplace.
- > Look for washed out areas near the foundation.
- > Check for missing locks on wood windows.
- > Look for peeling or wet paint in corners and closets.
- > Check for water in the crawl space.
- > Tape any loose seams in the heater ducts.
- > Clean or change the furnace filters.
- > Check and level attic insulation.



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spoiler

Continued from page 13

than the other team, and we were able to accomplish that," Kagawa said. "We shot 10 out of 19 and they shot 9 out of 18. So we kind of changed our emphasis on where we were getting our shots from this game. Instead of relying on the three, we jammed it inside a little more."

The Cougars were led by their three seniors, Greg Thornton, Billy Zeier and Guthrie Fleischman who gave an inspired performance in their final game. Thornton collected 21 points and 10 boards, Fleischman finished with nine points and four steals, and Zeier totaled seven points, nine boards and several key assists to Thornton in the game's final minutes.

"In terms of their performance on the court, their enthusiasm and their loyalty to the program, my players gave a hundred percent," said Kagawa. "They were fun to work with, they gave everything they had, and they showed up to every practice, which is tough to do when you're not winning a lot of games."

Brawl

Continued from page 13

week's Journal, Richmond police then escorted the Cougar soccer team to Golden Gate Fields, at which point

Future

Continued from page 13

for the Cougars, and the closest they came to winning in the ACCAL.

"The Lady Cougars ended the 97-98 season on a high note, with the last game of the season being dedicated to seniors Janet Bower and Miya Yamamoto," said Cougar coach Al Baker. "Despite losing the varsity contest in the final seconds, 45-44, we played hard and displayed good teamwork."

Kimbra Baker led the team with 13 points and 10 rebounds. It was a struggle of a season for the Cougars, who found themselves without a coach midway through the season when former varsity coach Sabrina Nagel resigned suddenly due to personal problems. Baker, who was the junior varsity coach at the time, stepped in and picked up the reigns.

But the Cougars are looking to the future, and it promises to be a bright one. They'll have 10 returning seniors on the squad, and will

have a brand new coach in Richard Thompson, who is a special education instructor at the school. "Richard's looking forward to creating a program for success," remarked Baker.

The real story for the Cougars this year, however, was the success of their JV team, which finished 13-5 overall. The team was comprised primarily of freshmen, the most noticeable of which was Allison West who averaged 17 points and 16 rebounds a game. West will almost certainly move up to varsity, which will be Baker's loss and Thompson's gain (since Baker will still coach JV).

"Allison was the catalyst of the JV team so it's going to be hard to replace her, but varsity should be the main focus anyway," said Baker. "So we'll have 10 returning seniors, and with Allison that will be 11, and we hope to possibly to recruit another player."

If they do and Thompson can indeed institute a bona fide program, the Cougars may very well be contenders next year.

Fluke

Continued from page 13

for 10 of his game high 23 points.

The only good shots EC got during the Pilots run were the ones straight into its foot. The Gauchos were scoreless during the last six minutes of the game, including missing two frontends and one-and-one opportunities.

The road through St. Joseph doesn't get any easier this time around. The Pilots are approaching full strength for the first time this season, having battled injuries and suspensions and defections all season.

EC caught St. Joe at its weakest earlier this year, as stars Nata Murase and Blandon Ferguson as well as 6-10 Honore Brewer were not dressed for the game. Both Murase and Brewer figure to be available, though Brewer has yet to have much of an impact this season after recovering from an injured foot. Ferguson may also be ready to return from a broken finger injury.

If EC Coach Chris Huber had his way, the Gauchos would play ex-

actly the same way they did for three quarters against St. Joe in their previous meeting. "We hope to duplicate what we did," he said. "I wouldn't change a thing, except for the outcome, of course."

The winner of the St. Joseph-EC game would be scheduled to play on Saturday against the winner of De Anza-Richmond game.

EC girls finish up

On the girls' side, EC completed its season with a 69-33 first round playoff loss at Alameda. Raina Dyer led the Gauchos with 14 points. Tameika Nesbitt chipped in six points and Maisha Amie had five.

The EC girls finished with a 6-19 record, which is not good, by any stretch, but an improvement over last year's 3-22 mark. "We've made a big improvement," said EC coach Donna Wood, who announced after the game that she would be moving to Michigan and not coaching at EC next season. "We played together and with a lot of heart."

Senior Raina Dyer, named to the All-ACCAL first team was wistful after playing her final game: "I'm kind of sad," she said. "I wish I was playing another game. We've improved tremendously. We've been working together in everything."

Junior Maisha Amie was singled out for honorable mention All-ACCAL honors.

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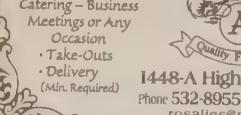
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Events

Continued from page 17

Vaughan Williams and Hopkins, as well as British folk songs, is March 6 at 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Dana Street and Channing Way, Berkeley. Tickets: \$12 general; \$8 seniors and students; free age 18 and under. Details: 283-9118.

OEB premieres Dzubay work

Michael Morgan conducts the Oakland/East Bay Symphony in a performance featuring the premiere of David Dzubay's "Symphony No. 1" and other works (featured artist: clarinetist Steve Sanchez) on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. Details: 620-6792. Tickets: \$11 to \$38.

Concerto Audition winners

On Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. the University Symphony Orchestra, David Milnes conducting, will feature winners of the 1998 Concerto Auditions: Tania Simoncelli, cello, and Hyuni Michelle Kim, violin.

On Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. the orchestra will feature Concerto Audition winner Christopher Guerrero.

Performances are at Hertz Hall, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, and tickets either day are \$4 to \$8. Details: 642-9988.

Painting exhibition

Sticks Gallery, 1529 Solano Ave., presents paintings by Tony Coleman and Shirley Carter tomorrow through March 26. Details: 526-6603.

Boogie at Brennan's

Brennan's has live R&B music and dancing every Friday and Saturday night. Tomorrow its GTS on stage, while Saturday features Rat Band Reunion. Details: 841-0960.

J. California Cooper

Acclaimed author and playwright J. California Cooper appears at the Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, in the Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room on Thursday, March 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. She will read from her works and sign books. The event is free and there will be refreshments. Donations for this program were made available by The Friends of the Richmond Public Library and LEAP. Cooper's first collection of short stories, "A Piece of Mind," was published by Wild Trees Press—a publishing company set up by novelist Alice Walker. A common theme in Cooper's writings is women's search for love. Others include old-fashioned common sense and Christian morality delivered in a narrative monologue style. Details: 620-6561.

Fun at Tilden

Upcoming events at Tilden Regional Park:
 • "Slugland Slog: Tales of the Packrat Trail," March 1, 10 a.m. An easy stroll along a muddy trail in search of tracks and signs of animals and birds. Meet at the EEC.
 • "On the Bluebird Trail," March 7, 2 p.m. A sometimes rough, 3.5-mile hike up and over Wildcat Peak. For age 9 and older.
 • "Tales Along a Newt Route," March 8, 10 a.m. A stroll through the eucalyptus woodlands and flooded roadsides in search of amphibians. Details: 525-2233.

Rambert

Continued from page 17

hold in Britain, the Rambert company began to reflect this interest by incorporating more and more modern works into its repertoire. In 1966 Rambert decided to abandon classical repertoire altogether, although the dancers at the school and in the company continue to train in both styles. In 1987 the company was renamed Rambert Dance Company to reflect its new identity. Rambert's comment, in a 1960 televised BBC program, that her company should be regarded as the equivalent, in the

ballet world, of the Tate Gallery, as compared to the Royal Ballet's National Gallery, is accurate and illuminating.

Although the company suffered a low period following Rambert's death in 1982, under Christopher Bruce's artistic direction it has risen once again to become, as New York Times' dance critic Anna Kisseloff claimed after its triumphant return to New York in 1996, a "clearly revitalized company that had found its center."

Christopher Bruce took his first ballet class with Ballet Rambert in 1959, at the tender age of 13. Four years later he joined the company and went on to become one of the most

celebrated dancers and choreographers of the 1960s and '70s. He was also the last choreographer to be cultivated by Rambert. He served as associate choreographer of the English National Ballet from 1986-1991 and has been resident choreographer of the Houston Ballet since 1989. His appointment as Artistic Director of Rambert Dance in 1994 heralded the rejuvenation of the company. Gambling on thinking big, despite grave financial problems, Bruce has managed to bring the company to a new level with a world-class status.

Bruce's ballets combine classical and contemporary movement and are often dramatic and expressive, a de-

Festival

Continued from page 17

parent volunteers, organized a chorus from five schools. For two years nearly 50 students participated in the after school program, giving sell-out concerts at Columbus and Oxford Schools. Her own Oxford PTA also organized a parent-busing event to dispel family members' fears about the newly instituted transportation system. "It made it a little less scary for them," she says.

Once her daughters were old enough, Sherman returned to work as a librarian, eventually becoming a part-time Visiting Lecturer at UC Berkeley's School of Library Services where she taught courses on Children's Literature. During those years she helped start a number of organizations.

As early as 1971 some members of the local Jewish community were looking for a space to hold events. Since all the synagogues were completely booked, they finally located a storefront at the former Co-op on Shattuck Avenue. In 1981, after a year at the Co-op, they moved to their current headquarters on Walnut Street, at first as tenants. Eventually the rapidly expanding Jewish Community Center purchased the building. Sherman has served on the board of the Berkeley Richmond JCC since its founding.

Concurrent with her activities for the BRJCC, Sherman also became involved, again as a volunteer and board member, with the Hillel Street Work Project, a support service for the homeless and hungry. Although the original founders had hoped to

see the need for such services decrease in several years time, the opposite has, unfortunately, been the case. Though the organization has undergone several name changes, its purpose remains the same. It is now considered a model agency for community organizations and Sherman is happily still serving on its board.

Thirteen years ago a staff member of the Jewish Community Center read about a grant being offered by the National Endowment for the Arts. She wanted to present a folk music festival and appointed Sherman to organize it. The Center received a grant to bring unusual and rarely heard music to the Bay Area, a goal the festival continues to have. The first year it was a modest one and a half day event with an emphasis on educational outreach. Over the years the festival has grown so that this year's events take place over a one-week period and can be found at venues in Marin County, San Francisco, and Berkeley. The two hundred seat auditorium at the JCC no longer suffices for most festival events.

This year's exciting lineup includes a concert by the Ensemble Parnassus featuring works by Salomon Rossi, an Italian Jewish composer (1570-1628), court composer of Mantua and contemporary of Claudio Monteverdi. The program features madrigals, sonatas, liturgical compositions, and dance music. The latter will be performed by members of Dance Through Time and choreographed by internationally known Baroque and Renaissance Dance expert, Angene Feves. The



The San Francisco Klezmer Experience plays March 3 at the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center.

program will open and close the festival with performances Sunday, March 1 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 7:30 p.m., and on March 8 at Congregation Emanuel in San Francisco, 3 p.m.

On Monday, March 2 at Theatre on the Square in San Francisco and March 3 at Berkeley's Freight and Salvage, Eleanor Reissa, singer, actress, and Tony-nominated Broadway director, will perform Yiddish ballads and music of Jewish-American composers in an evening called "From Bilgoray to Brooklyn to Broadway: Yiddish Music with Eleanor Reissa."

Special performances for seniors and children will be presented by Los Angeles songwriter, Robbo, on Wednesday, March 4 at 12:30 p.m. (Oakland Senior Center), with a Children's Concert taking place that same day at 6 p.m. at the BRJCC, and

a special morning for younger children (under)

following day at 10 a.m. Klezmer events, always with the public, take place

March 3 at 2 p.m. at the Klezmer Matinee with the Lewicki Duo and Marc (SF Klezmer Experience and Jam). Sylvia

favorite of past music in

turns to sing "Songs My

"Me" on Friday, March 6 at the Osher Marin JCC.

The final event of the "Voices of Israel: A Salute to 50," taking place at the House Sunday, March 7, the concert will include music from

rocco and Yemen, And

and Sephardic melodies on

Zionist songs from

and contemporary Israeli

Details on events: 843

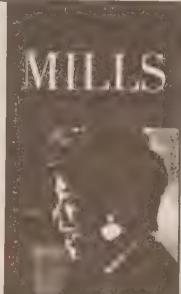
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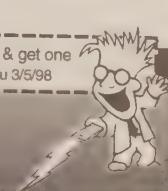
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Israel at 50 — 1948-1998

Gays in the military? Arabs and Jews together?

Dramatic vignettes show a contemporary side of the Middle East

By Marc Breindel

When Americans travel to the Holy Land, the last things most expect to find are hip little cafés and gay freedom parades. But, for those who think all Israelis stay home Friday nights praying, the new play "Words of his own" should prove enlightening.

Part of Hillel's "Israel at 50" series, "Words of his own" — in town for just one night at Berkeley Hillel on March 4, and performed in English — offers a series of dramatic, wryly humorous vignettes about contemporary gay life in Israel. Some of the pieces are culled from a popular column in a Tel Aviv weekly newspaper, and some are adapted from poems or short stories.

"You can taste the flavor of being in Israel," Producer Anula Shamir said, "but it's also completely universal."

Shamir discussed the play, and Israeli gay life, in a phone interview from Tel Aviv.

"I think it's getting better," Shamir said of her compatriots' acceptance of gays and lesbians, like herself. "They are relaxing up to a point, because in a way Israel's still a very macho place. But, it's really getting better."

For one thing, homosexual relations are legal in Israel, unlike in some parts of the U.S. Even in the army, Shamir said, gays and lesbians are nominally protected against discrimination.

One openly gay soldier who brought the subject into the realm of public discussion, Shamir said, was a high ranking medical officer who recently died of cancer. The man had been married to a woman, with whom he had a son, before "coming out" and starting a long-term relationship with another man. Now the courts are seriously weighing both the ex-wife's and the widowed partner's inheritance claims, suggesting the gay relationship has some recognized legal status.

Military themes permeate Israeli life, and the play, Shamir said. "It's because for a gay man in Israel, it's impossible to avoid the army thing ... Almost every little vignette deals with the army in one way or another."

Perhaps the most obvious example, Shamir said, is a scene in which a gay Israeli Jew has a relationship (whether fantasy or "real" is not made clear) with an Israeli Druze comrade serving beside him in Lebanon. The threat of war, and



Words of his own' cast (from left): Zahi Grad, Hagai Ayad and Noam Meiri.

Oren Dar

the ethnic division, only heighten the tension.

Of course, war remains on the periphery of Israeli life most of the time, and so it is with "Words." Characters spend more time avoiding social snubs than dodging bullets, it seems.

said. "It's like they're calling him back to his lover."

Another light-but-serious segment has a closeted gay man confronting three "liberal" friends whose prejudice is so subtle, even they tend not to notice it

Transliterated into Hebrew, "gay" sounds like "pride." Thus, t-shirts sport an ambiguous slogan that means either "We're proud of Israel," or "We're gay Israelis."

One comic vignette has a happily paired-off man "accidentally" ending up on a blind date, of sorts, with someone new. As he cheats on his partner, he finds himself overwhelmed by Jewish guilt, and by the sound of his partner's voice ringing in his ears. "His guilt feelings are working overtime," Shamir

— until the protagonist reveals his own identity. "It's interesting ... when you personalize the idea of a gay man," Shamir said.

Many Israelis gays are coming out these days, Shamir reported. Gay nightclubs are proliferating; gay parades are held annually; and gay rainbow

stickers, like the ones cut in the shape of Jewish stars in Tel Aviv, are displayed on cars here, she said.

A linguistic coincidence has meaning to the word "gay" in Israel. It is closely related to Hebrew, "gay" closely to the word "pride." Thus, t-shirts sport a slogan that means either "We're proud of Israel," or "We're gay Israelis."

Shamir and other gays got a kick taking place this year. "Israel is ... says ... 'All the gays say, 'Okay!'" Shamir laughed.

Shamir has reason to be happy. She's about to take her cast on a tour including next Wednesday's performance, and several more around the Bay area. The group has already toured Europe.

Of course, the premiere destination for the players is San Francisco's Castro. "The Castro is, in Israel, like a legend," said. "Let's go the Castro!" she said. "It's like a wonderland."

Shamir herself is happy to be returning to San Francisco. She lived there for many years, and has an ex-husband in the area.

Shamir also has a daughter, in Israel. She was concerned about leaving her behind. Iraqi war seemed more likely in recent months. At the same time, she feared the tour would be canceled, a logistical disaster. She was relieved to hear the war might be averted.

Israelis learn to laugh at adversity, and chuckles at the idea of planning a vacation around a war. "You can wake up in the morning and the whole country can go into more two or three days," Shamir said. "You are very flexible with your plans."

Berkeley presentation of "Words of his own" is sponsored by the Israel Project, the campaign of the Israel Center of the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation, the Consulate of Israel, the Israel Center of the East Bay Federation, and the Israel Action Committee.

"Words of his own" appears at Berkeley 2736 Bancroft Way, at 7:30 p.m. on March 4, 845-7793, ext. 14, for more information.

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February 26-27, 1998

RE 1

earning the 5 Cs

Then jewelers sell diamonds concentrate on the four "Cs": color, clarity, carat and cost. Mortgagelenders have their own "Cs", those are the five "Cs" of credit. When an underwriter evaluates a file (and your life), he uses the scoring criteria.

Capacity
An underwriter's first question when evaluating a potential borrower is will the borrowers be able to repay the loan they are requesting.

loan underwriter's first question when evaluating a potential borrower is the borrower's capacity to repay the loan he is requesting.

First they look at the borrower's gross monthly income in relation to principal, interest, taxes and insurance payment, this would include any home owners association dues—and Primary Mortgagelife Insurance (PMI).

You are self employed or work straight commission (and are often a fully documented loan), you will base your monthly income on a two or three year average of your tax return's bottom line, adjusted gross income (AGI). You also need a two year average of your adjusted gross income for the last two years when considering.

ing overtime and bonus income. The underwriter then looks to your monthly consumer debt when added to your monthly housing expense. This is all your credit card payments, car payment and any installment loans that will take longer than 10 months to pay off. (Again, credit card debt is figured at the minimum payment and that can take a lifetime to payoff.)

Underwriters will typically consider your ability to service the debt reasonable if the calculation (when

you divide your monthly housing debt by your gross monthly income) or ratio—falls below 30 percent, especially for a first time buyer. They are more reasonable for a veteran homeowner and find that 33 to 36 percent is acceptable.

The ratio for housing expense plus monthly consumer debt should fall between 36 and 39 percent if you want to fly through the process. Most lenders who want to "sell" their loans on the secondary mortgage market cannot accept borrowers whose ratios exceed 42 percent. "Saleable" loans are those who meet the very strict criteria of Freddie

MORTGAGE MADNESS



KAREN SENZIG

Mac and Fannie Mae guidelines.

Credit

Will you pay your loan in a timely manner? This is the theme that concerns every lender. After considering your ability to service the debt, the lender considers your credit history.

One of the most-asked questions is why do we have to charge \$55 for a credit report, especially when they have heard that they can get one for \$15 or even free from one of the credit reporting bureaus.

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They provide the scoring that the lenders require as well as a public records search and employment verification. These reports give the underwriter a solid snapshot of the borrowers management of their credit.

Collateral

Will the lender be protected if you default on your loan? An underwriter will have an appraisal to evaluate the value of your home, whether you are purchasing or refinancing. It is important to consider a variety of factors like age, structural soundness, appearance, location, neighborhood, zoning and taxes.

Since the house will serve as the collateral for your loan, the underwriter wants to make sure that it is worth at least as much as you want to borrow. The appraisal is equally if not more important on a high equity (125 percent debt consolidation) loan.

Character

Your personal character will also be important to a lender's underwriter considering your loan application.

Do you have a sound savings history and have you set up a retirement plan? Considering your credit report, have you demonstrated integrity in repayment of your debt obligations? Most

See MADNESS on page 2

30-year fixed again falls below 7 percent

In the Feb. 19 Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.99 percent, with fees and points averaging 1.2 percent. This bellwether rate fell 7 basis points from last week's average of 7.06 percent.

In the last week of Feb. 1997, the 30-year fixed averaged 7.56 percent.

The average start rate for the one-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 5.59 percent with fees averaging 1.2 percent. This average is virtually unchanged from last week when it averaged 5.58 percent. This time last year this rate averaged 5.45 percent.

This week's average for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, a popular option in the refinance market, fell 6 basis points to 6.59 percent from last week's average of 6.65 percent. Fees and points averaged 1.2 percent. A year ago, the 15-year fixed averaged 7.06 percent.

"Current affordable levels of mortgage rates have produced a robust housing market," said Frank Nothaft, deputy chief economist for Freddie Mac. "Housing starts exceeded 1.5 million for the fifth consecutive month.

"We continue to expect mortgage rates to hover around 7 percent with only one point. No point

loans, of course, would be slightly higher."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation chartered by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders.

The organization supplies lenders with the money to make mortgages and then packages these mortgages into marketable securities.

In this way Freddie Mac sustains a stable mortgage credit system and reduces the mortgage rates paid by home buyers.

Over the years, Freddie Mac has opened the doors for one in six home buyers and two million renters in America.

More information about Freddie Mac can be found on the company's Web site, www.freddiemac.com.

Updates on the latest Freddie Mac averages are available each Thursday after noon. Call toll free 888-780-2060 for updates.

On Jan. 30 the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco pegged the 11th District Cost of Funds Index (COFI) for February 1998 payments at 4.963 up from the 4.949 percent that was in effect for January 1998 payments.

See RATES on page 2

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1817 CARTER ST. - Upper Oakmore - Custom contemporary. Large LR, DR opens on to brick patio. 4BD/2.5BA, large kit, MBR suite, hwd flrs, down stairs fam rm. **NORM ROBINOW.....\$425,000**

33 BUCKEYE AVE. - Upper Rockridge - Freshly painted with newly refinished hardwood floors, this 2.5BD/2.5BA home has traditional charm with a S.F. view! **MICHAEL THOMPSON.....\$325,000**

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945 BRUNELL.....PIEDMONT.....5BD/3BA.....\$355,000.....DON COELHO

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The nonprofit Building Education Center (BEC), 812 Page St., Berkeley is the place to start your dream home or to start turning your home into a dream. On Sat., Feb. 28, BEC presents "Carpentry Basics for Women," a hands-on workshop with carpenter Leann Gustafson and a "Roofing Primer" with

roofer Vince Corbett (se habla Español).

On Sun., March 1 don't miss "Inside the Interior Designer's World" with Lori Inman. On Tues., March 3 contractor/engineer Eric Burt presents "Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) for Beginners." Call BEC at 525-7610.

Rates

Continued from page 1

The COFI is the index widely used by the savings and loan industry for its adjustable rate mort-

gages. The COFI for March payments will be set Friday after 3 p.m. Call (415) 616-2600 to hear the new index.

Madness

Continued from page 1

lenders will evaluate your determination to satisfy your debt obligations when considering your new loan.

Compensating Factors

There are very few people who can fit the best lenders' guidelines in every shape and form. Life is like that. It deals out challenges to the very best people at the most inopportune times.

When we find a borrower with a large income and no savings account, we must demonstrate why. It could be a matter of huge alimony and child support payments, which the borrower can prove a history of perfect payment.

It could be homeowner has invested a huge sum of money remodeling out of his own pocket. It could be overtime income that

can only be substantiated over a 12-month period, instead of the two years required. It could be a single parent, struggling to overcome a terrible divorce.

All these things and more define life here in the '90s. But as my husband always says, considering the compensating factors, we can almost always find a loan for anybody, as long as he is willing to pay the lender's interest rate.

So, keep in mind – capacity, credit, collateral, character and compensating factors when you are telling your story to a lender and you just may enter the world of Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senz is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached at 339-8511, fax: 339-3814, e-mail: ksenz@ aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Tenants in common

Periodically, I am asked to draft or review Tenants in Common Agreements ("TICs"). These Agreements, most often end runs around local ordinances banning or restricting condominium conversions, have greatly facilitated home ownership which would be otherwise unaffordable.

They have also often resulted in very tangled and troublesome legal and financial relationships. A growing awareness of these problems has led at least one city, Berkeley, to modify its ban on condominium conversions in order to provide a more legally sensible alternative to TIC owners.

Tenancy in common ownership of real property is the default form of co-ownership in California. Whenever two or more people purchase property together, they take title as tenants in common unless they designate an alternative form of ownership, e.g., joint tenancy or community property.

Community property, of course, is reserved for married folk. Joint tenancy, which is not, involves a right of survivorship (when one co-owner dies, the other(s) inherit that interest). By contrast, each tenant in common is entitled to dispose of her interest as she sees fit. Also, joint tenancy requires all participants to take title at the same time and to own equal interests. Individual tenants in common, on the other hand, can come and go and own varying percentage interests in the property without disturbing the underlying legal relationship.

What is almost always meant by the phrase "tenants in common" in communities such as Berkeley or San Francisco is not simply this well-defined legal relationship, but

a somewhat ill-fitting marriage of that concept to one of home ownership. This is accomplished, not through the acquisition of separate title as in the case of a condominium, but by the coupling of ownership of an undivided percentage interest in the property as a whole to an agreement among the co-owners providing for exclusive occupancy of a specific unit by each owner.

In other words, the co-tenants, as they called by the law, share ownership of one property and responsibility for one mortgage, one property tax bill, and one insurance bill but agree to act as if they are individual homeowners much as they would if they had purchased a condominium instead. If this sounds like trying to pound a square peg into a round hole, that's because it is and therein lie the pitfalls.

Why, you might be tempted to ask, would a rational person of at least average IQ agree to share legal responsibility for a mortgage, property taxes, and most of the other burdens of home ownership with total strangers? Because, acceptable single family homes are not available at affordable prices but tenancy in common interests are.

And, usually, also because the local community has acted to prevent the erosion of existing rental housing by banning or limiting the conversion of such housing to condominiums.

Once having accepted these realities, where should an unsophisticated buyer begin when confronted with the prospect of purchasing a TIC interest? Which are the major issues to consider?

Most important is the determination of each party's percentage of ownership, since this is usually the

REAL ESTATE LAW CORNER

ROBERT HAYES

basis upon which such other important decisions as distribution of sales proceeds, payment of mortgage, property taxes, and insurance are made. If the units are identical, the question is easy to answer. Prob-

a host of other major fronting prospective buyers, such as how a substantial improvement will affect the value of the property, the mechani-

Whenever two or more people purchase property together, they take title as tenants in common unless they designate an alternative form of ownership.

lems arise when they are not, which is very often the case.

One widely used approach is to have the percentage of ownership reflect the relationship between the square footage of the particular unit to that of all of the units which are to be exclusively occupied. So far, so good.

But, how about when the units are all the same size but their condition is not? Or when the units are of different sizes and some have been modernized and/or remodeled while others haven't, or to a lesser degree? What about the difference in value between a unit with a panoramic bay view and one with an equally panoramic view of the garbage rack?

There is no "right" answer to these questions. The same is true of

See HAYES

The GRUBB Co.

New Listing - Open Sunday 2-5

EIGHTEEN SANDRINGHAM ROAD PIEDMONT



Designed by noted architect William Strickland, this well-maintained home with lovely gardens epitomizes graciousness and elegance. Formal rooms, den/library and spacious bedrooms (three are suites including large master). Offered for \$985,000. Connie Rogers (510) 339-0400 Ext. 204. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Crocker Highlands Tudor OPEN SUNDAY MARCH 1 • 2-5



931 Hillcroft Circle
Offered at \$479,000

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FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK -

2303 EDITH STREET, NORTHERN EL CERRITO

Conveniently located 2+ bedroom, 2 bath home on a large lot. This home has many nice features including hardwood floors, a fireplace in the living room, a separate laundry and a garage with interior access. Also, there is an area for a home office or possible separate living space. The large terraced yard has a separate dog run and built-in brick barbecue pit. Walk to transportation (bus & BART), Canyon Trail Park, Poinsett Park, and shopping. With some TLC this property could shine for a new owner. Offered at \$189,000. For more information on this property contact Marc Guay or Leif Janssen at (510) 527-3387 ext. 103.



2303 Edith Street, No. El Cerrito - Agents (top) Marc Guay & Leif Janssen

HOMES OPEN SUNDAY

295 Lexington Rd. (2-4) Kensington 3bd/2ba \$419,000
21 Kingston Rd. (2-4:30) Kensington 4+bd/2.5ba \$399,500
1616 Delaware St. Berkeley 2+bd/2ba \$299,500
404 Village Drive (2-4) El Cerrito 2bd/1ba \$255,000

BY APPOINTMENT

ALBANY

Bargain! 3bd/1.5ba near Solano. Poss priv home office, great yd... \$229,000
2bd/1ba Best buy in Albany. Frpl, garage, yard... \$159,000

BERKELEY

Charming 2+bd/2ba Brown Shingle, sunny, large yard... \$299,500
Home & cottage. 2bd/1ba. Best location. Needs some work. \$239,000
Condos near campus for University Staff & faculty... \$149-\$155K
Charming 3bd/2ba Med style craftsman. 1bd/1ba sep entry. \$179,000
2bd/1ba unit, xtra plus rm, mst bd ste. For UC fac. staff/retirees only. \$149,000

EL CERRITO

2bd up/sq. live-in space down. Lg fenced yd. hdwds! Needs some TLC! \$189,000

AGENTS OF THE WEEK -

MARC GUAY & LEIF JENSEN

Marc Guay has been helping his clients through the many real estate transactions for 11 years. He understands that selling or buying a home is one of the biggest events of a family's life, and that is why he is dedicated to being the professional they need. Marc was joined by licensed agent Leif Janssen 3 years ago. Leif is a Berkeley native with real estate sales in his family. Grandson to Berkeley sales legend, Marc Guay, a nephew and assistant to Marc Guay. Together they closed 43 transactions last year. It is this comprehensive estate knowledge that the team of Marc Guay & Leif Janssen puts to work for their buyers and sellers.

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

House Two-2bd flats & rear 2bd cottage plus separate office
South side triplex. Near UC & Elmwood... \$250,000
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Estimating your project's cost

A new client called wanting to know the estimated construction cost of his attic renovation even though drawings were complete. Didn't want to expend the cost of some necessary to develop a full set of architectural plans, only to find it was too expensive for his budget.

The need to know how much a project will cost before getting in too deep is not an unusual request. Here are several ways to help you in estimating your construction costs.

First, it is important to know the scope of the work you plan to do as thoroughly as possible. The scope of work includes all the work you intend to have built by the contractor including the sizes of

rooms, the window and door types and sizes, the interior and exterior finishes (flooring and wall and ceiling coverings, roofing, and exterior wall finishes), the plumbing fixtures, and the cabinetry.

In addition, it is a good idea to outline the major structural elements, including foundation placement and type and placement of plywood shear walls, because these elements can significantly affect the cost of your project.

The most accurate way to outline the scope of work is with a preliminary set of architect prepared plans called "schematic drawings". These plans are the product of a significant amount of design work and thought by both you and your architect. With your preliminary plans, a contractor

ARCHITECTURE AND HOMES

DEBORAH LANE, AIA



who has a good track record in estimating can give you a price that will come within 10 percent of the cost of the final bid, provided the design and scope of work does not change.

Choose wisely

If you are going to get an estimate from a contractor, pick the one you plan to have build or bid your job. Expect to pay him for his services if you want an estimate of value.

Often, the contractor will credit the amount of the estimate towards the price of building your project once he is awarded the bid.

If you do not want to pay the expense of having a contractor estimate your project, some architects will estimate the cost of your project based on their prepared schematic plans as an additional service.

Or, you can use the plans you and your architect have developed and compare them in scope with recently built projects in your area.

You can get a less accurate ballpark idea of the cost of your project before any drawings are complete by taking the time to write down the scope of your project. Remember to include repairs and upgrades

Outline the major structural elements, including foundation placement and type and placement of plywood shear walls — these elements can significantly affect cost.

necessary to your existing home as well as the new work you want to complete.

Questions, questions

Does your home need a new roof? Will your electrical box serve the needs of your addition or will it need to be upgraded? How structurally sound is your existing house? Does it need an improved foundation of additional earthquake bracing? If you are planning to add on, does it make sense to paint the entire house?

The more thorough you are with your list, the more accurate a contractor's or architect's estimate will be.

In estimating the cost of your project, realize that your construction budget covers only the cost to

build your project. Project costs not covered under the construction costs can add as much as 15 to 25 percent or more on top of the construction costs.

These costs can include architectural and structural engineering fees, building and zoning permit fees, soils engineering, and surveys, and an allowance for unavoidable changes made during construction.

Take the time to consider your project cost early on in the game. This will keep your project on course and save you time in the long run.

Deborah Lane, AIA, is an architect with an office in Berkeley. Call her at 527-5677 with questions or comments.

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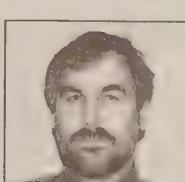
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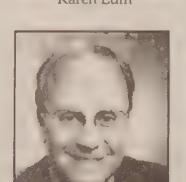
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Hayes

Continued from page 2

bookkeeping system from hell as a means of keeping track of changing individual payment amounts and who owes what percentage of the loan at what interest rate from which date?

Then there are the issues of purchase options and the mechanics thereof, the right of approval of an incoming co-owner, the right to rent one's unit, to have pets, to park or not to park on the property, to use and maintain common areas, etc., etc.

There is the very important issue of what to do when one owner fails to meet his or her monetary obligations (the lender, tax collector, and insurance company will expect full payment each month. They should not be expected to make allowances for problems among the owners. Finally, how will future disputes be handled? Arbitration? Litigation? Should

mediation be tried first?

I am raising such questions without answering them to make two points: first, buying into a TIC involves making a lot of important decisions; second, there are no right answers (although it is true that more or less standard solutions have developed in the market place).

The group of prospective co-owners must thrash them out among themselves and then - and I can't stress this strongly enough - memorialize all of their agreements in a written TIC agreement signed by all of the parties. This Agreement should include a provision requiring all future co-owners to execute it and agree to be bound by its provisions as a condition of purchasing an interest in the property.

This leads me to my penultimate point. As often as not, a prospective purchaser will be considering purchasing an interest in an already existing TIC as opposed

to creating one from scratch. All the same questions should be asked even though there will not be the same freedom to implement preferred solutions.

You will have to agree to abide by an agreement that was created by and for other people, which is somewhat like wearing somebody else's clothes. Therefore, if the Agreement provides for arrangements which differ from those you would like to have, be sure you can live with the differences or negotiate changes with the non-selling co-owners before proceeding any further.

In any event, don't forget to make your purchase offer contingent upon review and approval of the agreement before you are irreversibly bound to proceed.

Finally, lots of things in this world can be done well, even best, without a lawyer. This is not one of them.

A knowledgeable real estate lawyer should always be employed to draft or review the agreement and to advise you of the potential legal consequences of each and every issue I have raised.

Robert Hayes is a real estate attorney with the Law Offices of Hayes & Ware in Oakland. He is a former real estate broker and UC Extension Instructor in Real Estate Practice. His columns appear throughout California and can be found at his firm's Website, <http://www.eastbaylaw.com/hayes>. He can be reached at 763-7195 or Hayes_Ware@msn.com.

Bringing order to chaos?

By H. W. Moss

The California Department of Real Estate (DRE) takes the Internet seriously and recently issued a memo containing guidelines for advertising on the information highway.

Here's the twist: The guidelines are not written for California licensees. The policy paper appears to be aimed at people who are licensed in other states. And if that's true, it sets up the possibility of licensing conflicts between states.

The memo is titled "Internet Advertising" and although it does not specifically say who it targets, residents of California or nonresidents, it carries the implication that it is meant for readers who do not inhabit the Golden State. However, its wording is valid for everyone.

"If you are not properly licensed in California, you may not solicit California residents," the paper states. "To do so would be considered conducting activity for which a real estate license is required."

Most people involved in real estate are aware that each state requires you to hold a license in order to perform certain tasks. And licensees who advertise in print or electronic media with nationwide circulation are limited in what they may say and how they may say it.

In fact, many advertisements offering real estate and mortgages

in the Wall Street Journal, for example, say the offer is not good in certain parts of the country. This disclaimer is not due to the rates varying or the price of property changing, but because the offeror is not licensed in those states.

"If you don't qualify the solicitation and the public is in California, you would be in violation," said Dan Garrett, assistant commissioner for legislation and public information with the DRE.

"You're not licensed in California, you're licensed in New York, Nevada, New Jersey. Typically, California licensees transact business in California. The ad may go everywhere."

The DRE's memo is a first attempt to bring the same professional standards to the new electronic medium as are required of traditional forms of advertising. As the world shrinks and the global village is spurred on by the Internet, there will be violations.

It is only a matter of time before we see litigation of licensing laws, from insurance companies to lawyers and doctors as well as real estate professionals.

"We're not ignoring the Internet," said Garrett. "It's a pesky problem because the Internet is everywhere, it's nowhere, and people are often anonymous. How do you realistically enforce your state's laws?"

Confusing the issue is the fact that tasks are licensed in one state but not in another, at least by the licensing body, in another fine mortgage brokered activity," Garrett said. "Some states don't."

Across the country, reticently across the world, laws are being strengthened, enforcement agencies, that at the moment have no power of any DRE sanctioned activity.

"We are not aware of any complaints," he said. "No action, no cases of fraud or unlicensed activity on the Internet. Real estate is a face business. That may be heard anecdotally about out-of-state applications over the Net. I think the public is that aware that may change."

The first thing people are doing on the Internet site is identifying themselves as on their Web pages. "You see a lack of that," said. "You don't know dealing with an owner."

California's DRE has numerous tasks as licensed. The memo concerning

See MOSS

Renters, take note

Willie Foster of Prudential California and Stan Johnson of Wausau Mortgage will conduct free Home Buyers Seminars. These seminars will inform renters of the opportunity to get into their homes for as little as 1 percent down.

The first workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thurs., March 5

at 3220 Blume Dr. in Richmond.

Seminars are also scheduled for Sat., March 14 and Thurs., March 19. Seating is limited. Take advantage of this seminar by calling 286-7644. Simply leave your name, phone number and the number of people attending. You will be contacted with seating information.

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New Listing!



455 MOUNTAIN BLVD, OAKLAND

A wonderful new home offering easy living with a central hall floor plan. All level inside and out. Move right in and enjoy the extra large spa and the spacious lot. There are four bedrooms and three full baths. Offered for \$459,000 Josephine O'Shaughnessy (510) 339-0400

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Nancy Platford 898-9408, 845-0211

ROCKRIDGE.....\$619,000
Hillcrest location. Home office, 4+BR/3.5BA, family home. Seller motivated. Colette Ford 845-0211

ROCKRIDGE DUPLEX.....\$349,000
Two-2BR units. Upper: high ceilings, lovely molding, hardwood floors, fireplace, spacious & special. Lower: cozy, softwood floors, 3-car parking, separate laundry facilities. Helene Barkin 273-9312, 849-5711

NEW LISTING!
BAY VIEW!.....\$299,950
Cute traditional, gardens galore! New kitchen, spacious 3BR, private Drive. Extra lot included.

Vikki Landes 869-4225, 339-9290



CROCKER HIGHLANDS
\$295,000

Gracious 3BR/1BA home in Trestle Glen. 1920's charm, high ceilings, formal dining, needs work. Dolores Thom 834-2010, 763-1710

SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME.....\$275,000
3BR/1.5BA, 2 frpl's, tiered back yard, lg family room, dog run. 4209 Reinhardt. See it!

Jaclyn Evone 834-2010

LIVE/WORK CONDO...\$270,000
Dolan design, 1662 sq. ft., 3 levels, great light, small garden, secure parking. Call for appointment.

Wagner 524-6834

HOME AND INCOME!.....\$239,000
Piedmont Ave. duplex! Two-1BR minihomes w/ frpl, frml dining, hdwd. garages. Unbeatable!

Mark Miller 531-3029

CITY VIEWS!
ELEGANT!.....\$169,500
2BR/2BA condo w/ fireplaces. Very bright & spacious corner unit. New carpet/paint. Spiffy upgrades!

Mary Canavan 273-9317, 849-3711

LOVELY LAKE VIEW...\$163,500
Spacious co-op in elegant High view. 2BR/2BA, 1,608 sq. ft., full security, 24-hour doorman, parking, near transportation.

Caroline Slotemaker-de-Bruine 845-0200, 287-8856

OWNER MUST SELL!...\$139,900
3BR/2BA, you take as is and save. Bring all offers. Owner is waiting. Call!

Willie 286-7644, 758-5637

WONDERFUL
LIVE/WORK.....\$139,500
Newer kitchen, slate master bathroom & walk-in closet. Exposed brick, loft, skylights, large low maintenance work area. Big value!

Vanessa Timon Smith 845-0200

HOME & INCOME.....\$119,000
Corner house. 2BR/1BA, formal dining room area, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen. Store front included! sold "AS IS".

Gene Boomer 869-4202, 339-9290

CLOUD NINE.....\$585,000
Fab new constr. in Berkeley's best neighborhood. 3 fireplaces, gourmet kit.

Candice/Warwick 528-9284, 530-7319, 845-0200

HILLTOP VIEW HOME...\$550,000
Solid construction, unique design, open floor plan, 4+3BA, patio, pool, decks, view, location!

Norah Brower 845-0200

the sign
of the times

West County

EL CERRITO INVESTMENT.....\$698,000

6 very large units fully occupied. Shows pride of ownership. Two-3BR/2BA & Four-1BR/1BA. 6 garages. Won't last long.

Anna Lei 273-9127/630-7589, 527-9800

CUSTOM SPECIAL.....\$165,000

Neat and pretty 3BR. Beautiful landscaping, sliding doors with clear terrace. Don't miss this.

Jean Lopes 223-1667, 527-9800

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ROSSMOOR...\$40,000 - \$400,000

Complimentary private tours offered daily. Northern California's most affordable retirement community. Tour incl. individual units & clubhouses.

937-6050

ELMWOOD CONDO...\$169,000

Best location - delightful 1+BR, lg airy rms. Renovated. Close to trans. shops.

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Local treasures

PACIFIC UNION



Preservation Park
A Local Treasure

Mark Pechenik

located at 13th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way in downtown Oakland, Preservation represents a unique collection of restored residences, which have been transformed into lovely Victorian-era neighborhood.

Pacific Union Real Estate has created a unique postcard series to boost community awareness of local architectural treasures. The "Local Treasures" postcards are a way to spread the word about special places that make this such a great place to live. His preservation is the theme of the year's cards. Among the 12 to be spotlighted will be Preservation Park, the Fox Theater and Oakland Floral Depot. Each card includes a skillful rendering of the building by architect

tural illustrator Mark Pechenik, and an update on current real estate trends. They are mailed monthly to Pacific Union clients and interested local residents.

"Many of our clients are new to the area and aren't aware of the wonderful 'hidden treasures' in Oakland and Berkeley," says Pacific Union manager Pam Hoffman. "And even people who have lived here longer like to be reminded of how special our area really is." Contact Pam Hoffman at 339-6460.

Open Sunday, March 1, 2-4:30



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2634 WOOLSEY STREET, BERKELEY
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Charm & convenience in the heart of the Elmwood! Move-in condition! Walk to Rockridge BART! Glorious remodeled kitchen! French doors to garden! 3BR/2BA + 1 car garage! Susie Schevill ext. 144. \$365,000

SOMETHING SPECIAL
IS COMING
IN NORTH BERKELEY!
Bebe McRae, ext. 145

BERKELEY

• ONE VINE LANE, Open Sun 2-5. New listing! Exceedingly charming English cottage built in 1923 for John Tupper (Tupper & Retkoff). Leaded glass windows, plastered walls, plank oak floors, Bennett Christopherson kitchen, 3BR/2BA. A rare find. Access Vine Lane from 1500 block of Euclid. Carol Libby Neil, ext. 146. \$495,000

\$140,000

OAKLAND

• 383 BUENA VISTA, Open Sun 2-4. 1915 Maybeck Home in Berkeley's historic Buena Vista Hill secluded in lovely mature gardens. 8 room residence, 3BR/4.5BA & separate grand music studio. Marlene Leverette ext. 121, Paul Simonoff ext. 131. \$769,000

• 599 ACTON, Open Sun 1-4. Charming & sweet. 2BR/1BA. Lovely yard, nice spaces, much potential! Leslie Avant ext. 137. \$140,000

EL CERRITO

510.652.2133

Possibilities in eye of beholder

Number 231 in a series of true experiences in real estate

Every week we look at a number of houses, the inventory of goods available for our customers. We can't go to a store to see what's for sale right now; we have to drive to each one and go inside. As we look, we form opinions about them, about their possible desirability for the buyers we know. We are, at least initially, our buyers' eyes.

We ask ourselves many questions about each house, its location, condition, size, amenities and cost. Does this house afford quiet and privacy, distance from its neighbors for someone who prizes these? What would it take to redo this kitchen and add a fireplace to match another buyer's desire? Is the location of a certain house within our buyer's preferred biking distance to his job?

The answers to these and other questions are sometimes clear. It's obvious which houses may work for a buyer who cannot traverse stairs or whose wish list is topped by a sweeping bay view. But more frequently, it is not possible to know which houses may be possibilities for our buyers.

This is usually because the buyers themselves don't know. Some may tell us, for instance, that he is not willing to live on a busy street, then change his mind when he finds a house that includes everything else he's been hoping for.

Or he's said that an older house with untouched wood details is what he wants—and it is—until he goes inside a newer, sleek and clean house and suddenly his image of home changes.

Most of the houses we see, we

see on tour. We're not in them for long. We come away with impressions, some of which are personal: I like this house; I don't like this one. One is cluttered, shabby; another sunny and open, or well cared-for and nice furniture, too. I make notes about every house we see, necessarily abbreviated, and I'm afraid, not always accurate. At least I wasn't in one case this week.

It was raining hard as we toured houses this week. We dripped in and out of each and back to our car. The skies were dark and we were cold and in a hurry. Maybe that is why I described one house to a client as "truly bad, needs much." I also told her that it has a pleasant yard, which it does, and that foundation work would be needed, which it will. It didn't seem to me that it was a house that she would have any interest in.

But I was wrong. She decided to drive by the outside of this house in spite of my bad review. Its appearance intrigued her and she called to ask me for more details. I told her what I had seen: walls, floors, all surfaces needing so much attention that the house doesn't seem habitable as it is. She wanted to see for herself and so we arranged to meet there.

It really wasn't so bad. I was surprised. Yes, it needs paint and the floors could certainly use refinishing. No maintenance has been attended to in some years. But the kitchen and bathroom are reasonably intact, no roof leaks are apparent, and the floors are relatively level. The house is not a wreck.

It has happened to me many times that a house I thought well of, described as attractive, even superior, was a disappointment upon a sec-

ond visit. But I don't think it has happened to me before in reverse. This house looked far better to me when I went back inside than I ever would have expected. I was embarrassed.

As it turned out, our client doesn't want to buy that house. It does have some problems that she does not feel comfortable taking on. But were this not the case, this might well have been the right house for her.

Which only goes to show something or other: Never assume anything! Don't look at houses on rainy days? Make sure buyers see every other things readily remedied.

And the opposite impresses us, maybe more than it should. A house that looks wonderful, clean and well-furnished captures us. Before we know it, we're involved, involved before we know anything much about its underlying health.

A sort of super vision would be a great assist to all of us, to see unemotionally at the beginning, to take in visuals without criticism. Such an ability would allow us to see and appreciate more and, I think, bring us more pleasure.



TARPOFF & TALBERT

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Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpooff are licensed agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at 653-2050.

Quake rates unfair?

An East Bay Assemblywoman is asking the state's insurance commissioner to do his job, following a ruling by a California judge calling current earthquake insurance rates unfair.

Assemblymember Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont, released a report today blasting Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush's effort to reform California earthquake insurance rates.

Figueroa, chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee, said, "It's time for Quackenbush to do his job. Homeowners throughout California, and particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, are paying too much for earthquake insurance."

Administrative Law Judge Andrea Biren ruled on Friday that the

current rates are unfair and recommended several changes to the California Earthquake Authority's insurance rates policy.

Quackenbush reportedly has the power to change or modify CEA policies, but has chosen to solicit the opinions of all involved parties before acting on proposed changes.

Quackenbush will consider comments received by March 23, according to a statement released by his office.

The CEA was founded by Quackenbush following the 1994 Northridge earthquake to help solve homeowners insurance problems. Its policy for determining insurance rates has been under review in California courts since 1996.

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Our Achilles' heel

Part one of two parts

Like many real estate companies, Prudential California agents have a joint meeting of regional offices once a month. At these meetings, we invite guest speakers to give presentations on topics of importance to our profession. At this month's meeting, we heard from a Mr. Gerd-Ulf Krueger, deputy chief economist at California Association of Realtors in Los Angeles.

Mr. Krueger's topic was an analysis of the current trends in the real estate markets across California. He spent most of his presentation documenting how strong the market is today in most parts of the state, and the reasons for this strength: lower interest rates, a net increase in migration into the state during the past few years, and growing buying power among our minority communities.

At the end of his talk, Mr. Krueger singled out one cautionary note that we as Realtors are well aware of. "The Achilles heel in this otherwise rosy picture," he warned, "is the perception in other parts of the United States that California in general, and the Bay Area in particular, is hostile to new business development. This perception will likely lead to a slowing down of the current real estate market in the near future."

He went on to explain that studies by his office indicate that professionals like scientists, doctors, professors, and high-tech executives from back east and overseas were no longer picking California as their first choice of a place to live, as they had been doing until recent years.

When asked why he thought this was true, he pointed to the plethora of laws restricting expansion of existing business, the delays and expense of getting new construction approved, the unusually high ratio of government workers per capita in many Bay Area cities, and the high tax rates on commercial and residential real estate.

I understand exactly what Mr.

Krueger is talking about, having lived in Berkeley since I arrived for my freshman year at U.C. in 1969. Just last a couple of weeks ago, I was appalled to read about the decision of the Berkeley City Council in passing a unanimous resolution which demanded that the state of California begin cleaning up the one-hundred-fifty-year-old waste left over from the Gold Rush.

The expected cost would be several billion dollars, its backers conceded. They provided no suggestion of how to pay for all of this. It was not the sentiment of this resolution that offended me, but the fact that my city's government was spending hours of the city council's limited time on a subject that was so unrelated to city business. Also, it seemed like an unrealistic and unreasonable demand, and one that would only contribute to the perception of Berkeley as a city that was out of touch with the real world.

I felt so strongly about the negative aspects of this resolution, that I called Mayor Shirley Dean's office to register my objections on her after-hours voice mail line. Apparently, I wasn't alone. Mayor Dean called me back a day or so later to tell me that she had received "several calls about this topic, perhaps a dozen, and not one of them was positive."

The mayor went on to explain that all of the calls she had gotten were not objecting to the concept of the resolution, but to the fact that the city council was spending so much time on these kinds of issues.

Even though she voted for the resolution in the end, Mayor Dean said "I tried to point out to the other council members that we need to have a better balance between these kinds of concerns and taking care of the city's everyday business."

After hearing the mayor's views on this subject, I decided that this would be an ideal opportunity to ask about her thoughts on what should be done to combat the negative effects of such actions on the city's business climate and its real

OWNING A PIECE OF HISTORY

MARK A. WILSON

estate markets. She began by recalling her original goals.

"When I became mayor in December of 1994, Berkeley had a decidedly antibusiness image," said Dean. "Whenever I went to a regional or statewide meeting of mayors, I was always looked at in a peculiar way when they learned that I represented Berkeley."

Dean said she has worked really hard to turn that negative perception of Berkeley around and feels she is making some progress until recently, when we got a new "radical", (i.e. Berkeley Citizen's Action) majority on the city council. She expressed her concern about this recent trend toward these types of proposals that have a certain agenda to them.

"I'm afraid that much of the progress that we had made during my first two years as mayor in reversing Berkeley's antibusiness image is being lost now," the mayor said.

I asked the mayor to give some

examples of what she feels has been accomplished since she took office to encourage business investment in Berkeley, and thereby ensure a continuing healthy real estate market.

"I have reached out to CEO's, business managers, and small business owners to assure them that Berkeley wanted their business," she said "And I've spoken to the owners of existing businesses already in the city that were considering leaving to urge them to stay by finding out what their needs were."

Two recent examples of these successful efforts came to Dean's mind. When the Pyramid Brewing Company was considering opening a plant in Berkeley, she recalls having a conversation with the owner to encourage the company to locate here.

When they informed her of their decision to come, the owner told her how important it was to him to know that the mayor wanted them



Moss

Continued from page 6

vertising refers to Section 10131 of the Business & Professions Code which sets forth a general description of that activity.

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Curiously, the memo explain what sanctions are taken against someone who violates the California department's rules.

And although civil suits have been brought against people in this state, it will be difficult to prosecute York offender.

H.W. Moss is a licensed estate associate with TCI, Francisco. He also writes and has a Website. You can find it at <http://www.netmoss.com>

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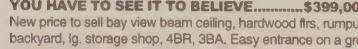
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System suited for the '90s

By Nate Brooks

Buyers using my new Automatic Daily E-mail Home Update service are finding homes as soon as they are listed on the East Bay Data Regional Multiple Listing Service.

In the hot markets such as Antioch or Rockridge, the buyers using this service, find out about the new homes coming on the market before others giving them more time to properly prepare an offer to purchase the property.

Since 1989, I have been committed to improving and developing cutting-edge solutions for real-estate buyers and sellers. With this new service, buyers no longer have to rely on a real estate agent to call them about new listings as they come on the market.

East Bay buyers in Oakland and other communities in Alameda or Contra Costa counties no longer have to worry about missing out on the good properties because they are sold before they even knew the homes were on the market.

In addition to this new service, my philosophy of empowering real-estate buyers and sellers by providing them with as much information before they make a decision has been made possible through his innovative use of computer and Internet technology.

For example, visit my Website at www.natebrooks.com, you can find every active listing for sale, regardless of which

company has the property; whether in Oakland or in any other city of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

When using this Website, buyers can specify their exact requirements for the home they are looking for within their price range without having to look at properties that are \$25,000 to \$50,000 above or below their price range.

Unlike many Websites, mine is easy to use. I designed it so that it would provide buyers and sellers with the necessary information in the fastest way possible.

Within a few seconds, you can search for properties, order the free Automatic Daily E-mail Home Update service and/or order any of the other special real-estate information reports available at no cost to you.

Just for fun, you may want to read my special report titled "Discover The Joys Of Living In Oakland, Find Out Why Oakland Is The Best Place To Live In The Bay Area."

When reading this special report, you'll appreciate what Oakland has to offer and if you were torn between moving to Oakland and another city, we will get to welcome you as a new Oakland resident after reading this report.

My Automatic Daily E-mail Home Update service and other services benefit both the purchasers and sellers of real property in Oakland as well as in the other surrounding East Bay cities.

Even though most of this article has been focused on the services that benefit primarily buyers, sell-

ers should order the free report titled "Seller Protection Strategies" from my Website. I share vital information that should prove to be helpful when selling your home.

I have developed a number of innovative marketing and consumer protection and legal strategies which will protect you legally and financially when buying or selling your home.

For sellers, there is a revolutionary program called the Circle Alliance Marketing Program that can literally expose your property to hundreds of local corporations almost overnight. My report "How To Prevent Escrow Disasters" shares over 20 strategies that can help prevent escrow disasters.

If you want a complimentary copy of additional services that the Nate Brooks Oakland Real Estate Team provides, please contact me at 562-7200.

I have prepared a 20-minute audio tape for buyers and sellers titled "A Solution For Every Problem" that describes additional services and strategies that can benefit real-estate consumers.

Nate Brooks, Harvard MBA and a broker associate with RE/MAX is one of only a few real-estate agents in the nation who has received both the Accredited Buyer Representative and Certified Residential Specialist designation from the National Association of Realtors. He can be reached at 562-7200 or via e-mail at nate@natebrooks.com.

Is '98 hot commercially?

By Richard Knutson, CCIM

The first quarter is a good time to ask the experts to put their credibility on the line. Anyway, except for Wall Street Week with Louis Rukeyser, how often do you check on January predictions in December?

The bottom line is that consensus has returned after the turbulent commercial real estate market of the early 1990s. We've spoken to some of the region's most reliable practitioners for their predictions.

The glitziest asset class among institutional investors is the Class A office building, usually a larger high-quality structure located in a downtown area or high-end suburb. As recently as 1995, doom was predicted for these financial behemoths. Now they are back in vogue.

According to Chris Adams of CB Commercial in Walnut Creek, this market has gone from not to hot in the last couple of years.

Adams reports that "office rents in the I-680 Corridor have climbed 35 to 50 percent in the past 24 months." Occupancies remain tight, about 95 percent in the East Bay. Investment values and rents are expected to continue rising, though at a less torrid pace — probably 10 percent by '98.

Adams predicts that transaction volume will be about the same this year as in 1997. That's right — you should have bought an office building in '95.

The market for industrial buildings also is enjoying a strong comeback, though this product-type didn't suffer as much as office properties during the 'great recession' of the early '90s.

Mike Kamm of BT Commercial in Oakland says rents should increase about 10 to 15 percent

this year, with occupancies in the range of 95 to 97 percent.

Investment values will perform well, tracking even with rents. The transaction volume for sales will increase, while leasing activity will decline due to fewer vacant spaces. Kamni states that

"1998 will see the completion of over 2.5M square feet of new industrial space along the I-880 Corridor. Even with this new inventory, rental rates will rise and vacancy will fall."

Roger Mills, CCIM, of MRE Commercial in Emeryville is only slightly less bullish on the prospects for retail properties. Rents are expected to move up about 7 percent this year, as will investment values.

The major precursor to rent growth, higher occupancy, is occurring throughout the region — up to 95 percent in 1998. In predicting a slight increase in transactions this year, Mills noted "the East Bay retail market seems to have hit bottom in early '97 and is definitely on the way up in '98."

While regional malls continue to lag, community shopping centers with large grocery anchors are in strong demand by investors. REITs have finally discovered retail investments and will increase their stake this year.

The apartment market will continue to be more heady than steady in the East Bay this year. John Leyvas, a partner with Moison Investments is so bullish, his firm recently opened a new office to serve Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties.

Leyvas, a dominant player in the apartment investment arena, predicts rent growth of up to 10 percent with occupancies steady at 96 percent or higher in most East Bay

'This year will see the completion of over 2.5M square feet of new industrial space along the I-880 Corridor. Even with this new inventory, rental rates will rise and vacancy will fall.'

submarkets.

Leyvas indicated "multi-housing investments will appreciate along with rents." Market volume should remain strong, with the year's final numbers depending on whether a few large transactions come to fruition.

Leyvas concluded, "there are finally some significant developments in the pipeline for 1998, but not enough to meet the demand created by new job formation."

For the cautious investor who wants to make sure the good times have returned before jumping in, you're not too late, but the party is well under way.

For those already in the market, 1998 will continue the trend begun in 1996 and treat you well. Watch out when investors return to their cyclical habit of buying on future rent levels. We can't say what the more distant future holds, except that every cycle ends, and the key is to leave the party before the lights go out.

Richard Knutson, CCIM, is a partner with Moison Investment Company. He specializes in real estate investment brokerage in the East Bay and can be reached at 347-4552.

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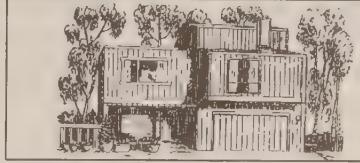
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 3250 Liberty Ave. - \$235,000
 42 McDonnell Rd. - \$296,000
 3517 McSherry Way - \$245,000
 42 Ratto Rd. - \$380,000
 604 Sandalwood Ild. - \$357,500
 22 Sath Ct. - \$268,000
 2101 Shoreline #205 - \$148,500
 950 Shorepoint Ct. - \$110,000
 ALBANY
 516 Cornell Ave. - \$102,000
 831 Kains Ave. - \$210,000
 535 Pierce St. #1102 - \$144,000
 BERKELEY
 1610 63rd St. - \$117,500
 1835 63rd St. - \$165,000
 1431 67th St. - \$220,000
 2805 Acton St. - \$123,000
 1707 Bancroft Way - \$265,000
 1511 Curtis St. #A - \$119,000
 1560 Dwight Way - \$149,000
 2906 Ellis St. - \$222,500
 3230 Ellis St. - \$162,000
 6841 ESTATES DR.
 OAKLAND
 2344 Fulton St. - \$193,000
 2515 Hilgard Ave. - \$225,000
 2814 Mabel St. - \$148,000
 434 Michigan Ave. - \$365,000
 1125 Miller Ave. - \$405,000
 2231 Oregon St. - \$265,000
 2405 Sacramento St. - \$400,000
 2416 Spaulding Ave. - \$169,000
 681 Spruce St. - \$460,000
 999 Spruce St. - \$344,000
 34 Tunnel Rd. - \$399,000
 EL CERRITO
 7785 Baron Ct. - \$233,500
 7015 Fairmount Ave. - \$140,000
 1120 James Place - \$355,000
 5225 School St. - \$128,000
 OAKLAND
 1050 102nd Ave. - \$117,500
 1639 21st Ave. - \$88,000
 1701 22nd Ave. - \$129,000
 1101 32nd St. - \$148,000
 2829 38th Ave. - \$113,500
 3735 38th Ave. - \$140,000
 2115 47th Ave. - \$90,000
 2551 55th Ave. - \$110,000
 3216 60th Ave. - \$125,000
 2592 61st Ave. - \$105,000
 1034 61st St. - \$135,000
 6201 Acacia Ave. - \$540,000

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 New Listing - Open Sunday 2-4:30

6841
 ESTATES DR.
 OAKLAND

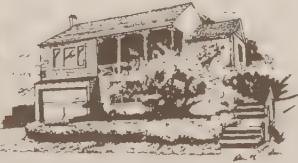


Stunning views! Level garden! This spectacular property, located near Montclair Village, has everything and more. There is a beautiful kitchen with gorgeous granite counters, a romantic master bedroom retreat and a wonderfully comfortable family room. Offered for \$795,000
 Judy Cain (510) 339-0400 Ext. 209
 Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

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EL CERRITO

SHARP CLEAN / NEW LISTING / Great Price \$195,000
 2BR, 1.5BA, large family rm, nice yard, garden, patio 1-car att. garage, almost 1,500 sq. ft., newer roof. #W43200 Ed Messner 510-799-3527
 BAY VIEW / QUIET STREET \$244,900
 2BR, 1.5BA, over 1,500 sq. ft., newer carpets, roof, large FDR, breakfast nook, attached gar., oversized yard, sold "as is". #W43269 John Anderson 510-237-8842

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MIRA VISTA HIGHLANDS PARADISE \$269,000
 3BR, 1.5BA, 2530 Carquinez Ave. Formal dining room, separate breakfast rm, att'd car garage, hardwood floors, full basement w/plus room, updated kitchen. Security and fire alarm system. #W43293 Geri Stern 510-234-7808

4-PLEX IN PRIME E.C. LOCATION \$319,000
 One-2BR unit, three-1BR units, 2-car garage, good income, great area, owner motivated! Units always rented. Call now! #W43158 Geri Stern 510-23407808

OAKLAND (Montclair)

CUSTOM HOME - 410 Mountain Blvd, Open Sun 2-4....\$439,000
 4BR, 3BA, approx. 3,135 sq. ft., 2 master suites, view! Remodeled kitchen with cherry wood cabinets, granite floors, modern appliances, FDR, remodeled bath, large lot, 3-car garage. #W42773 Howard Triplett 510-245-2334

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 1BR, 1BA, elegant! Upstairs loft for den/office. FHA approved. All appliances included. Lot of extra storage. #W41831 Magany Abbass 510-233-7329

RICHMOND VIEW

WILDCAT CANYON LOTS! \$199,000
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 Sunny 3BR beauty high in Richmond Hills! Very private setting, large yard & deck. This one sparkles. #W43066 Cynthia Burke 510-252-0940

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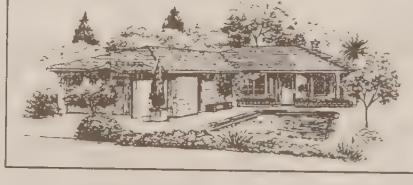
6708 Aitken Dr. - \$339,000
 3718 Ardley Ave. - \$235,000
 3364 Arkansas St. - \$89,000
 6444 Ascot Dr. - \$235,000
 4211 Atlas Ave. - \$175,000
 9109 B St. - \$110,000
 565 Bellevue #1505 - \$123,000
 26 Binnacle Hill - \$501,000
 5340 B way Ter #305 - \$222,500
 280 Caldecott #243 - \$130,000
 280 Caldecott #256 - \$131,500
 280 Caldecott #259 - \$124,500
 280 Caldecott #269 - \$119,000
 138 Calvert Ct. - \$520,000
 7761 Claremont - \$375,000
 131 Covington St. - \$205,000
 3315 Crane Way - \$320,000
 5455 Crittenden St. - \$92,000
 495 Darien Ave. - \$142,000
 1974 Drake Dr. - \$380,000
 2359 Duran Ave. - \$121,500
 2001 East 28th St. - \$126,000
 1923 East 29th St. - \$89,500
 2 Eastwood Ct. - \$195,000
 363 Elysian Fields - \$299,000
 6828 Estates Dr. - \$325,000
 6701 Evergreen Ave. - \$266,500
 4537 Fieldbrook Rd. - \$215,000
 801 Franklin St. - \$168,000
 7530 Greenly Dr. - \$161,000
 3961 Hanly Rd. - \$283,000
 4820 Harbord Dr. - \$280,000
 6269 Hayes St. - \$140,000
 140 Hermosa Ave. - \$330,000
 8833 Hillside St. - \$110,000
 3242 Hyde St. - \$195,000
 1555 Lakeside Dr. - \$96,000
 5437 Lawton Ave. - \$375,000
 2550 Lilac St. - \$85,000
 3277 Madeline St. - \$231,000
 3281 Madera Ave. - \$158,000
 2028 Market St. - \$170,000
 2 Marlow Dr. - \$190,000
 45 Oak Hill Cir. - \$310,000
 4106 Oakmore Rd. - \$325,000
 4120 Oakmore Rd. - \$138,000
 8108 Olive St. - \$125,500
 233 Orange St. #106 - \$66,000
 484 Pedestrian Way - \$185,000
 267 Perkins St. - \$435,000
 2669 Ritchie St. - \$92,000
 3500 Rubin Dr. - \$275,000
 350 Santa Clara Ave. - \$245,000
 10401 Shaw St. #603 - \$80,000
 7977 Sterling Dr. - \$87,000
 7796 Surrey Lane - \$265,000
 6525 Thorndale Dr. - \$620,000
 4351 Townsend Ave. - \$239,000
 5200 Trask St. - \$173,500
 994 Vermont St. - \$285,000
 3621 Virden Ave. - \$222,000
 538 Weldon Ave. - \$235,000

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3408 Rubin Drive • 349,000

Elegantly remodeled custom ranch. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, den off master suite. Formal living room & dining room. Renovated kitchen. Solar heated pool. Park-like setting.

JUST LISTED

5960 Zinn Drive • 349,000

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Carol may be reached at
 652-2133 ext. 146

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5925 Westover Dr. - \$480,000

PIEDMONT

305 Blair Ave. - \$785,000

140 Scenic Ave. - \$471,500

105 St. James Dr. - \$604,500

20 Wyngaard Ave. - \$624,500

RICHMOND

2506 Beach Head - \$153,500

3120 Fairmede Dr. - \$123,000

3122 Groom Dr. - \$1,000,000
 5702 Hazel Ave. - \$200,000
 24 Parkridge Ct. - \$160,000
 1239 Parkway Dr. - \$100,000
 1644 San Benito St. - \$100,000
 450 South 20th St. - \$100,000
 1540 South 26th St. - \$100,000
 3767 Stonewall - \$93,000
 3400 Wall Ave. - \$280,000
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- Eat-in kitchen
- Hardwood floors
- Black bottom pool & spa
- Large usable lot



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GLAMOROUS BROWN SHINGLE
 Centrally located in a favorite El Cerrito neighborhood. This stunningly remodeled home has three uniquely beautiful bedrooms

two dramatic bathrooms, a San Francisco bay view, gorgeous garden and more. Mary Gray 527-9111, 466-5843.

CONVENIENT ALBANY HOME!
 Walking distance to Solano stores and schools. This two bedroom bungalow has remodeled kitchen and bath, formal dining room and hardwood floors under carpeting. Herman Sun 527-9111, 466-5843.

BERKELEY FIXER
 Excellent opportunity for contractor or handy person. Two bedrooms, one and half baths, sunny eat-in kitchen, open and light living/dining room, hardwood floors, large garage, storage area.

Todd Hodson 527-9111, 273-9561



ROMANTIC RETREAT!
 Newly listed! Nestled in a lush, verdant setting. Three bedrooms two baths. Walk to Montclair Village. Writer's studio with private deck. Kathie Berg 287-8752, 527-2700

7502 FAIRMOUNT AVE, EL CERRITO • 527-9111
1577 SOLANO AVE, BERKELEY • 527-2700

When it's your move...

Homes

Continued from page 8
 2167 CENTRAL AVE.
 ALAMEDA'S HISTORIC
 ADELPHIAN CLUB
 BUILT IN 1908. Large auditorium with balcony, stage, 2 kitchens, meeting hall and large parlor with fireplace. \$575,000. Possible use in this zone are church, club, etc.

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 Gallagher & Lindsey



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13510 Aurora Dr. - \$183,000
 225 Bellevue Dr. - \$169,500
 393 Dowling Blvd. - \$333,000
 470 East Merle Ct. - \$190,000
 629 Elsie Ave. - \$152,000
 918 Estudillo Ave. - \$230,000
 1309 Margery Ave. - \$163,000
 724 Martin Blvd. - \$136,500

398 Parrott St. #106 - \$103,000
 14735 Pepperdine St. - \$170,000
 16926 Robey Dr. - \$183,000
 1911 San Rafael St. - \$187,500
 1382 Sayre St. - \$198,000
 16815 Selby Dr. - \$250,000
 15084 Thoits St. - \$215,000
 795 Woodgate Dr. - \$135,000

SAN LORENZO
 1851 Corte Breve - \$192,500
 1909 Keller Ave. - \$194,000
 16696 Meekland Ave. - \$137,500
 15975 Via Cordoba - \$174,000
 16051 Via Descanso - \$180,000
 15751 Via Regio - \$184,000
 18000 Via Toledo - \$188,000
 867 Videll St. - \$145,000

EL CERRITO
 TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST PRICE: \$128,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$355,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$214,125
 EL SOBRANTE
 TOTAL SALES: 1
 PRICE: \$1,419,000
 EMERYVILLE
 TOTAL SALES: 1
 PRICE: \$80,000
 OAKLAND
 TOTAL SALES: 75
 LOWEST PRICE: \$66,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$212,026
 ALBANY
 TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$102,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$210,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$152,000
 BERKELEY
 TOTAL SALES: 20
 LOWEST PRICE: \$117,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$460,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$245,800

PRICE: \$92,500
 SAN LEANDRO
 TOTAL SALES: 20
 LOWEST PRICE: \$103,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$333,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$197,675
 SAN LORENZO
 TOTAL SALES: 8
 LOWEST PRICE: \$137,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$194,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$174,375

This list was compiled for publication in the Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office.

Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county taxes.

All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 568-7233.

The GRUBB Co.

New Listing!

5296
 HARBOR DR.
 OAKLAND



Enjoy this upbeat Contemporary style home located in Upper Rockridge. The home is in great condition and features a family room off the kitchen, a master suite, two additional bedrooms and a wonderful large, sunny garden. A must see!
 Offered for \$385,000
 Josephine O'Shaughnessy (510) 339-0400
 Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

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<http://www.norcalrealty.com/grand.htm>

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6187 SWAINLAND ROAD. This elegant new home is \$675,000 located in one of the hill area's most prestigious neighborhoods. 4+BD/2.5BA. Kitchen/family room combination, formal DR, bonus room, two fireplaces and large front courtyard. Carol Robbiano ext. 292



6246 RIDGEMONT DR. New Listing! Delightful one \$379,000 story home in move-in condition. 3BR including luxurious master suite, 2.5BA. Cooks kitchen with island, formal dining and breakfast hook, and level yard. Chris Christensen ext. 242

6712 HEARTWOOD. Private & peaceful. Mellow Montclair....\$309,000 traditional, living room with corner fireplace, random plank floors, bright updated kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room with fireplace, front deck for entertaining, large rear yard, gentle down slope lot. Stan Hammond 839-5846



940 GLENHOME CIRCLE. Glenview. 1st Open! \$279,000 Charming Spanish Mediterranean. Sunny 3BR, 2BA on quiet street in Upper Glenview. Lovely setting, living room with vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors & fireplace. Separate dining. Small yard, garage. Nancy Novak 482-2392

376 ORANGE ST. #2. Rare townhouse in Adams point....\$154,000 Mediterranean details from 1940's. 2 bedroom, some view. Fireplace and garage. Noli Davis ext. 263

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT



NEWER CONSTRUCTION CONDOS. 10 Each....\$1,600,000 Identical 2BR/2.5BA. 100% rented. Separate utilities, fireplace, gourmet kitchen, private entrance, and private yards. Agent/Owner Frank Hennefer 654-6461

HORSE PROPERTY. 2.85 acres totally fenced. Bay view....\$685,000 3BD one level house. Large pool, enclosed pool house with fireplace. Parking for motor home, boat, etc. Noli Davis ext. 263

THINKING OF ROSSMOOR. We can provide you with complete information about available properties in Rossmoor, Walnut Creek. We can show you one and two bedroom homes priced from \$75,000 to \$400,000 in this secure retirement community. Please call Bruce Morgan at 256-3720

LAND

BAY VIEW DOWNSLOPE. In area of new and newer homes. Neighboring home values starting at \$500,000. Utilities at street....\$89,000 Mary Neuberger 530-4148

CENTRAL MONTCLAIR DOWNSLOPE. Rare infill site with canyon view on Thornhill Drive. Good construction access Walk to Montclair swim club. Peter Nicolopoulos 339-9780

OAKLAND/MONTCLAIR LOTS FOR SALE. Call for plot maps and descriptions. Bay views, utilities, commercial locate too. \$20,000 and up. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND

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Creatures feast with chickens

Q: I don't know what I have — gophers, moles, or rats? I see them in my neighbor's yard eating together with the chickens. (Yes the chickens.) Then they dig under the fence and feed on my flower beds. I have put out blocks of gopher poison, but they are still there.

A: Moles are insect eaters that burrow along the soil surface searching for prey like grubs and earthworms. They do not eat grains or plants, nor do they spend much time above ground. They have been known to pull young plants down under the ground.

Gophers spend very little time above ground. Normally, they only leave their runs to mate and establish new colonies.

Therefore, I think your problem is roof rats. Roof rats will gnaw on plants as well as eat grains. I would also expect to see them feeding with other animals.

The poison gopher blocks may take up to three weeks to begin working, so it's not unusual to see any progress for a while. For the extermination of rats, I would use a rat bait. Remember to protect the bait stations from dogs, cats and other animals that might be harmed by the poison.

Q: We are preparing our soil to do some landscaping in our front yard. The soil is extremely hard. I tilled the soil last fall down six inches. We are ready to lay down Fir Mulch and Planter Mix this spring but I am concerned that we have not mixed/chopped up the soil enough. Do I need to till again?

A: I would only rototill the area where turf or ground cover is going to be planted. Here I would mix the soil amendments with the existing soil. For trees and shrubs,

dig a hole that is twice as wide as the container they are now growing in and six inches deeper and amend the backfill 50-50 with the existing soil. And finally, plant the new plants so the original rootball is one inch above the final grade point.

Q: I'm considering buying a dogwood tree and would value your input about the best choice of location. I would like a prolific tree with large, show white flowers, reaching about 15 feet high for a partially shaded area. I would prefer a tree that is disease-resistant and has fall color. Which of the following would be most suitable? Cornus florida or Cornus hybrid? Also, could you tell me about the Cornus kousa group? Are they more shrub-like than tree-like?

A: Dogwoods are an excellent choice for the Oakland Hills. My only concern is that the fall color isn't very spectacular. Cornus florida is the best variety for most home gardeners as it will tolerate summer irrigation and will not grow larger than 15 feet.

Only you can decide which is the best variety of dogwood as they all are very colorful when in bloom. Cornus kousa is more like a large shrub than a tall tree. They will reach 20 feet in height and are the latest blooming of the dogwoods, flowering around June and July. The native dogwoods do not adapt to any garden that receives a lot of summer water as they will rot. Also, they are the largest growing reaching 20 to 30 feet high.

Q: I have a dwarf Mandarin tree that is seven years old and has never produced any fruit. Instead of destroying the tree out-

right, I would like to experiment by budding or grafting it from my Eureka Lemon. What methods would you recommend and when is the most appropriate time to do so?

A: Citrus can be both budded and grafted but budding is preferred. Citrus is budded in the spring, March, April, and in October using a Side Shield Bud.

Citrus is best grafted in March-April using a Bark, Whip, or Side graft. The best graft is determined by the caliper stock/branches you are grafting to.

Q: Bermuda Grass has taken over my yard. I have decided to get rid of it and I would like to replace it with a non-Bermuda grass lawn. Can you tell me how to go about this? I have been told to spray my yard with Round-Up and that this will kill it off. But given how the Bermuda grass grows, will one application of Round-Up be enough or would I need multiple applications?

A: When Bermuda Grass takes over a lawn, you have to be patient and persistent in killing it, even then you're not always successful. I recommend to many people that they learn to live with it because of the high probability of its



by Buzz Bertolero

return. Bermuda Grass has deep roots that make it difficult to control.

To overcome the brown winter color, mow the existing grass as short as you can and over seed it with Ryegrass or Rye blend, a pelleted fertilizer and cover it with Bandini Top Dressing. Now is an excellent time to over seed the lawn. This will keep the turf green year round.

If you do decide to put in a new lawn, it will take several applications of Round-Up or Finale. Never apply it to the bare ground as these products are leaf absorbed herbicides. Before making a repeat application, encourage the leftover Bermuda grass by watering and fertilizing the area.

Contact Buzz Bertolero at his e-mail address: dirtgarden@aol.com; visit his Webpage at www.dirtgardener.com.

Wilson...

Continued from page 6

to bring business to Berkeley. "That was a very important decision for Berkeley," Dean said, "because it provided over two hundred jobs for residents of the city — as well as the fact that it's such a popular place for people to go."

More recently, the Berra Software Company was considering moving out of Berkeley because of the major problems they were experiencing over inadequate parking for all of their employees and clients.

Dean spoke to company representatives at length to reassure them that the city would work with them to find a solution to their parking problems, and that the city would do whatever it could to make it desirable for them to stay in Berkeley.

"The Berra Company eventually

did decide to stay," said De-De. "They began construction of a handsome new office on Addison Street in downtown Berkeley. So we were able to vital, growing business by a positive discussion of their needs were. This is the thing we need to do for this city to ensure a good business climate that will benefit the overall economy."

In next week's column, we will address the question of whether to increase taxes on the city's owners, improving the city's access, and the current plan to create a light rail system.

Mark A. Wilson is a local architectural historian at Mason McDuffie & Associates, 110 Telegraph Avenue, office 200. Reached at 273-9383. Visit www.topbroker.com/wilson.

La Casa Nueva Vieja



22 Whitaker Ave. • Open Sunday 2-4

We are pleased to present an extraordinary example of what can happen when old and new are combined to create a stunning residential property, nestled high in the Berkeley Hills in one of the East Bay's most distinguished neighborhoods.

With bay views from many windows, a luxurious kitchen/family room, 3 fireplaces, a total of 3 bedrooms, and 2 baths, this property has cathedral ceilings, a built-in alarm system, fire sprinklers throughout, a zone heating system and numerous other features.

The perfect place to escape the rigors of a hectic life; climb the stairs to a spacious master bedroom retreat situated on cloud nine.

Offered at \$585,000

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828 Sueirro, Hayward
\$177,500 • Open Sun. 1-4
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Castro Valley Hills



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Castro Valley Hills • \$310,000

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2 or 3 BR, 2 Full Baths, 2 Fireplaces, Living Room, Formal Dining, Remodeled Eat-In Kitchen, Inside Laundry, Hardwood Floors, Attached 2-Car Garage, Generous Yard w/ Gazebo

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OPEN SAT-WED 12-5



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COLDWELL BANKER TOP PRODUCERS 1997



Dian Hymer
International President's Elite



Ruby Ng
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James Duffy
International President's Circle



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Coldwell Banker congratulates and is proud to introduce their top 10 sales executives for 1997 from its award winning "Premier" Oakland/Piedmont office located in Montclair. Let our expertise work for you!

Montclair/Piedmont Office 6137 Avenue, Oakland, CA 94611
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COLDWELL BANKER ...Expect the best

Events**Continued from page 11**
information.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization located at 333 Hegenberger Rd., Suite, 618, in Oakland offers the free workshop **Money 101**, from 6 to 8 p.m., Wed. March 11. This is one in a series of money-management seminars hosted by Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Registration is mandatory. Call (800) 501-SAVE, ext. 235, to reserve space or to receive information about other seminars.

Willie Foster of Prudential California and Stan Johnson of Wausau Mortgage will conduct free **Home**

Buyers Seminars. These seminars will inform renters of the opportunity to get into their homes for as little as 1 percent down. The first workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thurs., March 5 at 3220 Blume Dr. in Richmond. Seminars are also scheduled for Sat., March 14 and Thurs., March 19. Seating is limited. Take advantage of this seminar by calling 286-7644. Simply leave your name, phone number and the number of people attending. You will be contacted with seating information.

The Small Business Administration and Oakland's One-Stop Capital Shop (OSCS), will host a free **Small Business Conference**, from 8 a.m. to noon, Thurs., March 5 at the Asian Cultural Center, 388

Ninth St., Suite 280, in Oakland. Oakland City Councilmember Henry Chang and Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan will open the conference and identify specific small business opportunities in the East Bay with an emphasis on Oakland and international trade. To receive more information or to register call 238-3703.

Oakland's One-Stop Capital Shop (OSCS), 519 17th St. in Oakland, provides a series of free and low-cost small-business developmental workshops available to the public on an ongoing basis. These workshops are geared for small and midsize business entrepreneurs. Workshops include Business Planning for Success, Legal Aspects of Small Business, Bidding on Gov-

ernment Contracts, Fundamentals of Marketing and Financing Your Small Business. For more information about these workshops, call 273-6000.

Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Sat. of every month for a free **Sick Plant Clinic** at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a piece of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call 643-2755 or garden @uclink4.berkeley.edu for more information.

Russell Doi of the Mortgage Network hosts free **First Time Homebuyer Seminar** on an ongoing basis. Learn about the many

first-time homebuyer programs available today. Find out just how much home you can afford to buy. Receive a free booklet that will help you prepare for the biggest investment you may ever make. Call 526-6554 to make reservations.

The **Orchid Society of California** meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Learn about orchids and their care. Purchase orchid plants at the members' plant sale before the meeting. Orchid lecturers share their knowledge and provide plants for a raffle. Join the camaraderie and learn about the beautiful world of orchids. Call 531-1210 for more information.

The **Golden Gate Cyn** Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wed. of each month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. These meetings feature speakers from around world slides and valuable tips on cymbidiums. Attend and learn how to grow these beautiful plants.

For inclusion in **Events** information to Dennis Real Estate Editor, Hills pers., 5707 Redwood Rd., 94119. Phone: 339-4047. Information must be one week prior to publication.

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES

OAKLAND ...OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30...

\$1,029,000 5640 MARGARITO, Claremont Pines, 4/3, unique & elegant! Classic Med w/pvt courtly & gardens. Pacific Union, Dee Knowland 339-6460
\$899,000 1016 AMITO, Claremont Hills, 5+/3 1/2, stunning Med. Vws! Lap pool & spa. Prudential CA RE 845-6021, Nancy Platford 898-9408 **SUN 2-4**
\$795,000 6841 ESTATES DR, Montclair, 1st open! Stunning vws & level garden! 5/4, family rm. Nr Village. The GRUBB Company, Judy Cain 339-0400
\$750,000 8 CHANCELLOR PL, Claremont Hills, 4+/2+, exotic Moroccan touches, nw Med, bay/hill vws, Prudential CA RE, Nancy Hoover 849-5338 **SUN 2-4**
\$675,000 6187 SWAINLAND, Nw, elegant 4+/2.5, kit/fam combo, FDR, bonus 2 fpl, courtly. Wells & Bennett, Carol Robbiano 531-7000 X292
\$630,000 12055 BROADWAY TER, Montclair, 4bd/3b, state of the art kitchen. New price. Don't Miss! Deadrifit RE, 632-1234 Cecile 632-3452
\$619,000 131 WILDING LN, Rockridge, 4+bd/3.5 ba family hm w/bonus rooms Prudential CA Realty, Colette Ford 845-6021
\$619,000 124 SHERIDAN RD, Stylish, quality, details, Rockridge cul-de-sac, 4/3.5, great rm. Tempton Company, Leslie Avant 652-2133 X122
\$584,000 6102 RUTHERLAND RD, Montclair, 4/2+, new construction, almost done. Exc. style/price. LaSalle Properties, Ed Dreifurth 531-8401
\$550,000 2076 LEMERT BL, Oakmore, 3bd/3ba, new listing! pano bay & SF vw, office, fam rm, decks. Pacific Union, Donna DeBardi 339-6460
\$498,000 660 FLORENCE AVE, Custom 3bd/2 1/2 ba, Up Rockridge, quality finishes, craftsmanship. Coldwell Banker, Michael Thompson 339-1174
\$479,000 931 HILLCROFT, Crocker, New listing! fabulous Tudor, 3+bd/3+ba Prudential CA Realty 831-2010, Dolores Tlum 763-1710
\$469,000 8898 SKYLINE BL, Montclair, 3+bd/3ba custom view home Prudential CA Realty 339-9290, Gen Boomer 869-4202
\$459,000 455 MOUNTAIN BL, 1st open! Spacious, all level, fam rm off EIK. Lg lot, great spa. The GRUBB Co. Josephine O'Shaughnessy 339-0400
\$459,000 58 VILLANOVA DR, Montclair, 4bd/2+ba, grt bay/hill vws! Spacious & dramatic. Pacific Union, Donna Costella 339-6460
\$449,000 20 VILLANOVA, Montclair, 5bd/3ba, 4-bridge vw, 3052sf, privacy and yard. Montclair Better Homes Realty 339-4000
\$439,900 6745 MOORE DR, Montclair, Just Listed! 4/3 gorgeous Shepherd Cyn tri-lv, woodsy serenity. Flr plan. Better Homes RE 939-7920 Mike Rittenhouse 372-7488
\$439,000 6100 RIDGEMONT, A gem! 3/2.5, lg kitchen, fam rm, 3 frpl, 3-car garage. Some bay vw. Coldwell Banker, Ruby Ng/Karen Lum 339-1174
\$439,000 410 MOUNTAIN BL, Montclair, 4bd/3ba w/bay view, remod kitchen, 3-car garage. Security Pacific, Howard Tripplett 245-2334 **SUN 2-4**
\$428,000 2144 MASTLANDS DR, Montclair, 4bd/3+ba contemp, fam rm, rec rm, in-law/hm office. Pacific Union, Wendy Gardner 339-6460
\$425,000 1817 CARTER ST, Upr Oakmore, custom 4/2 1/2, hdwds, lg kit, family rm, back patio. Coldwell Banker, Norm Robinow 339-1174
\$409,000 5150 REDWOOD RD, Top of the Hill Bay View! 3bd/2.5ba Prudential CA Realty, Yehuda Ben-David 869-4205
\$399,900 34 OVAL RD, Montclair, charming 5yr old custom 3/2. 2 frpl, beamed ceilings, huge lot. The GRUBB Company, Karen Starr 339-0400
\$399,000 2038 TAMPA AVE, Montclair, 4/3 w/ new price. Bay view, rumpus, office, yard "See" LaSalle Properties, Mel Copland 339-2109
\$399,000 2104 CLEMENS RD, Oakmore, 4bd/2ba fab new hm, hdwds, huge level yd, lg attic. Pacific Union, Jeffrey Himmel 339-6460
\$389,000 5815 BALMORAL DR, Oakland Hills, custom, 1/2, 2hdws, updt kit w/eat-in area, FDR. The GRUBB Company, Susanne Paul 339-0400
\$385,000 5296 HARBORD DR, 1st open! Contemp. ranch, family rm off kit, mstr + 2 add'l bd. Grt garden! The GRUBB CO. Mavis Delacroix 339-0400
\$379,000 6246 RIDGEMONT DR, New listing! 3/2.5 includes mstr suite, 1-story, cook's kit, FDR. Wells & Bennett, Chris Christensen 531-7000 X242
\$360,000 And Up! 8201 SKYLINE CIR, Bayview in Oakland Hills, 3 & 4bdms w/2 1/2 ba by Kaufman and Broad. Spectacular views of SF bay, recreational trails, EZ commute. 430-9633 Mon 12-6, Tues-Sun 10-6
\$359,000 5515 HARBORD DR, Upr Rockridge, 3bd/2ba, park-like lot w/privacy LaSalle Properties, Carol Cohen 339-8900
\$359,000 1081 CLARENDRON CRESCENT, Crocker, 4/2 w/lots of potential, big yd, 2-car garage. The GRUBB Company, James Garcia 339-0400
\$359,000 4308 ARCADIA, Upr Oakmore, 3bd/1+ba, charming tradt, FDR, den, south bay vws. Pacific Union, Vicki Woodhead 339-6460
\$359,000 1930 MAGELLAN DR, Montclair, 4hd/2+ba, spacious, a/pair dwn lot, level yd. Pacific Union, Tom Anthony 339-6460
\$355,000 3445 BRUNELL, SF bay view! 5/3 new listing w/rumpus, wet bar, 2 frpl, dbl garage, 1/4 acre. Coldwell Banker, Don Coelho 339-1174
\$349,000 5960 ZINN DR, Montclair, just listed! Bright, move in condition, yd & vws! 3bd/2ba. Prudential CA RE 339-9290 Gene Boomer 869-4202
\$349,000 6029 CHABOLYNE TER, Rockridge, 3/2.5, grt price, fabulous location, family home! Prudential CA RE 845-6021, Nancy Platford 898-9408
\$349,000 1337 BARROWS RD, Trestle Glen, 3bd/2ba, gorgeous tudor, unique city vws, new kit, terraced yd. Pacific Union, Joan Dark 339-6460
\$325,000 33 BUCKEYE AVE, Upr Rockridge, refn. hdwds, nw paint, 2+bd/2b w/trad'l charm & SF vw! Coldwell Banker, Michael Thompson 339-1174
\$324,000 2692 CAMINO LENADA, 3+bd/2b, Montclair contemporary, private oak tree setting. Pacific Union, Nancy Moore 339-6460

Gadsby & Associates, Paula Geiger 748-5300

\$399,000 1096 MILLER AV, Unique/stylish w/walls of glass, huge glass Bay/cyn vws. 2+2. The GRUBB CO, Bethina Balestrieri 339-0400

\$385,000 1922 EL DORADO, Just listed! Stunning 3/2 crftsmn w/FDR, hdwds. Mstr opens to lg deck. Flat yd. Berkeley Hills RE 526-6554 Jean Aukla 524-1700 X16 **SUNDAY 2-4**

\$365,000 2634 WOOLSEY ST, New listing! 2 1/2 w/charm! Heart of Elmwood remod kit. Garden. Templeton Co. Susie Schevil 652-2133

\$299,500 1616 DELAWARE ST, Charming 2+bd/2b Shingle, fab 1/2 sun, sunny yd, nr BART. Red Oak Realty, Susan 527-3387 X123 **SUN 2-4**

\$279,000 1745 LINCOLN ST, 1st open! 3bd/2ba

Prudential CA Realty 845-0200, Wendy Kashiwa 287-9123 **SUN 2-4**

\$140,000 3039 ACTON, Charming & sweet. 2bd/1ba. Yd. Much potential. Templeton Company, Anne Van Dyke 652-2133 X137 **SUNDAY 2-4**

CASTRO VALLEY ...OPEN SUNDAY...

\$310,000 18179 WALNUT RD, Castro Valley, 3 bdrms, 2ba up, 2/1 down. Prudential CA Realty 888-6324, Lynn Levin 889-9981 **SUNDAY 2-4**

EL CERRITO ...OPEN SUNDAY...

\$549,000 1339 CONTRA COSTA DR, Nw listing! Lg, gracious 7/3.5, off rm. Terr.yd, decks, vws! Templeton Co. Ron Egheren 652-2133 **SUNDAY 2-4**

\$350,000 7350 STOCKTON, Stunning remodel! 3bd/2b, gorgeous garden view. More! Marvin Gardens 527-9111, Mary Gray 466-5843 **SUN 2-4**

\$269,000 2530 CARQUINEZ, 3bd/1 1/2 ba, FDR, hdwds, full bsmnt, att 2-car garage. Security Pacific, Geri Stern 222-8871 **SUN 2-4**

\$255,000 404 VILLAGE DR, Nw listing!, charming Havenside 2bdm, 2ba, views, lg yd, gardn. Red Oak RE, Patrick 527-3387 X110 **SUN 2-4**

\$215,000 1500 ELM, 3bd/2ba in mint condition! Lg private yd. Marvin Gardens RE, Nick Tang 527-9111 **SUNDAY 2-4**

\$189,000 708 RICHMOND, Delightful 2bd/1ba hm w/updtd kitchen, backyard, pab & shed. Marvin Gardens RE, Merrilyn Rhodes 527-9111 **SUNDAY 2-4**

HAYWARD ...OPEN SUNDAY...

\$185,000 828 SUEIRUD, Hayward, 3 bdrms, den, frpl, FDR, laundry Prudential CA RE 888-6324 Lynn Levin 889-9981 **SUNDAY 2-4**

KENSINGTON ...OPEN SUNDAY...

\$419,000 295 LEXINGTON RD, Beautiful 3/2 contem, 5F vws, modern living! Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X116 **SUNDAY 2-4**

\$399,500 21 KINGSTON RD, VIEW! 3+bd/3.5 ba tradl, 2938 sqft. Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X112 **SUNDAY 2-4**

\$350,000 98 RINCON RD, 2bd/1ba on 1/2 acre Prudential CA Realty, Lillie Braudy 644-5262 **SUNDAY 2-4**

ORINDA ...OPEN SUNDAY...

\$679,000 21 DIAS DORADOS, 5/3 1/2 , shows nicely, private level lot. Prudential CA 339-9290, George Millions 869-4233 **SUN 2-4**

\$379,000 121 EL TOYAL, New listing! 3bd/2ba on 1/2 acre Prudential CA Realty 339-9290, Jim Resor 869-4243 **SUNDAY 2-4**

PIEDMONT ...OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30...

\$1,100,000 111 SANDRINGHAM, Stunning custom 3bd/3+ba w/soaring ceilings, bay view. Pacific Union, Rosalie Woods 339-6460

\$985,000 18 SANDRINGHAM, 1st open! 4bd (3 are suites), elegant for mature gardens. The GRUBB Company, Connie Rogers 339-0400

\$899,000 116 HAGAR AVE, Stately 4+bd, 2+ba, tradl w/gt wws dsl & Lg FDR, lg fam rm. Coldwell Banker, Phyllis Milenbach 339-6460

\$760,000 132 HAZEL LN, Fab central loc, w/bay vws! 4/3.5 ranch, den, hdwds, rumpus, deck. The GRUBB CO, Sheila Gallagher 339-6460

\$759,000 927 JAMES DR, Std/4ba, charming English, lg. rec room, 2 frpl, grt details. Pacific Union, Ann Nichols 339-6460

\$689,000 141 ST. JAMES DR, Carmel charm 3/3 tradl, office/study rm, delightful setting. The GRUBB CO, Elizabeth Dicson 339-6460

\$610,000 10 HARDWICK AVE, 3/3. Secluded courtly off LR & DR, 1/2 rm, hdwds, 2 frpl. The GRUBB Company, Nancy Rothman 339-6460

\$619,000 129 ST. JAMES DR, Most house for the money! 4+bd/3bd. Move in condition. Prudential CA RE, 428-0900, Vicki 644-5411

\$585,000 51 WILDWOOD GARDENS, Views/privacy charm. The GRUBB Company, Jane Inch 339-0400

\$539,000 1558 OAKLAND AVE, Lovely 3bd/2.5 ba, patio, yd, rd, hdwds, rumpus, deck. The GRUBB CO, 644-5411

\$529,000 229 CARMEL AVE, 3bd/2ba. Beautiful Piedmont Home! Prudential CA Realty 339-9290, Marynell Stone 869-4233

\$489,000 108 LATHAM ST, 3+bd/2ba. hdwd flrs, garden level out from family room. FOX San Ramon, Deanna Bain 735-7555

\$439,000 48 MANOR DR, Charming 2/1 English cottage, stone pab & lndscpd yd. Bonus rm up. Coldwell Banker, George Karsant 339-6460

SAN LEANDRO ...OPEN SUNDAY...

\$324,950 1365 GLEN DRIVE, 3 bedrooms Prudential CA Realty 888-6324, Lynn Levin **SUNDAY 1-4**

The Open Home Guide is published every Thursday in the Berkeley Voice and The Journal, and every Friday in The Montclarion and The Piedmonter. A 2-line ad is \$23.00 and will appear in all four newspapers. Deadline is Noon on Wednesday. Call 568-7233 to place your listing!

401 Help Wanted

CAMP Counselors: Youth experience/ references. Horseback rider waterfront/ swim/ rock climb. 8F East Bay. 510-283-3795. Rough-hat@pac.com

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY
ADS REALLY WORK!

Call Classified to find out more!
339-1777

CLEANER counter person, full-time or part-time, will train, 4364 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. Pick up, application

COMPUTER

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT
Individual to assist with SQA, training and documentation. Must have comprehensive payroll experience/ working knowledge of MA applications. Computer Science degree a plus. Resumes: 2200 Powell Street #350, Emeryville, CA 94608 Fax: 510-420-2078

COMPUTER

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT
Needed to help w/ITS/ SQA, training and documentation. Must have comprehensive payroll experience/ working knowledge of MA applications. Computer Science degree a plus. Resumes: 2200 Powell Street #350, Emeryville, CA 94608 Fax: 510-420-2078

CONTRACTORS

General licensed, minimum 10 years experience. Subcontract time and materials on small job (2 hours - 2 weeks). \$40/ hour/ week \$30/ hour per minute. Must be Journey Master level all trades. Highly professional, excellent people skills. Own truck and tools. 339-1616.

COUNTER person, North Berkeley Pharmacy needs cheerful, detail oriented person for Saturday 9am-4pm. 526-6414

Customer Service Representative

Leading Manufacturer, serving the Institutional and commercial food service industry, for a dynamic individual in our Customer Service Department. Fast pace environment. Minimum supervision. Candidate must be a self-starter with previous customer service experience. AA degree required. Telemarketing experience and success in working with a computerized system is a must. Good benefit package. Physical and drug screening required. Send resume to: H.R. Director, P.O. Box 2164, Oakland 94621.

Customer Service/ Switchboard Operator
East bay computer Integrator is seeking a dedicated upbeat team player to join Customer Service team. Excellent phone, writing and verbal skills. MS Office, excel, fast learner, detail oriented, strong counting background, dealing with customers to resolve customer service issues. Flexibility and willingness to take ownership a must. Serve as back up receptionist for 50 person company. Cordial phone experience a plus, 30 hours/ week plus benefits. Fax resume to CS manager 510-428-1680 or mail to: 2000 4th products, 1316 63rd Street, Emeryville, CA 94608

CUSTOMER Service Energetic, growing Barter company seeks high energy individual for phone service of existing accounts. Fax resume, Barter Business Network 510-568-7236. Call Chris 510-568-6262

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Title 9 Sports, a women's athletic apparel catalog, is looking for bright, enthusiastic outgoing folks for order-taking and customer service work. Great typing skills, comfortable working in a fast-paced environment, and a great sense of humor are a must. Part and full-time positions from 7:30-11:30 Monday-Friday. 339-1343 Saturday. Please call Stephanie at 510-653-9949 ext 245 or fax your resume to 510-655-9191.

CUSTOM FRAMING AND SALES
Local frame shop is now interviewing for positions in customer framing production and sales. Ideal candidates are motivated, creative, dependable. Related experience in retail, art design is preferred. Company offers benefits/ incentive and profit sharing. Fax resume to: 510-442-2366 (attention Yvonne) or mail to: 2999 College Ave., Berkeley to fill out an application.

DENTAL Hygienist, 2 days/ week. Park Blvd Area, Oakland 482-2400

DRIVER- Van/ Pickup- Deliver. Light. Warehouse \$10/ hour/ Benefits. Laser Agency, 1430 Franklin, Oakland 893-9612

DRIVER/ Laborer. MDM, carpentry experience/tools a plus \$8- \$10/ hour 482-1600

EDUCATION/ CENTER DIRECTOR
SYLVAN LEARNING CENTERS

Use teaching, management and organizational skills. Great opportunity for educator in East Bay. Full-time with benefits. Teaching credential required. To apply: 1345 Grand Ave., Piedmont, 94610 Attention Jack.

EXCELLENT typist needed 7:30 - 10:30 evenings "Timeslip" "Quickbooks" "Pro". Fax resume 510-530-5009, cell 510-530-9331

FILE Clerk, part-time to run errands for plastic surgeon in Oakland. Must drive, own transportation. Immediate opening. 654-9222 or fax 654-2349

FITNESS CLUB. Part-time kitchen help needed weekdays through weekends. No experience necessary. Call Jim 531-3300

WEAR JEANS!
NO EXPERIENCE!

400 clerical support openings
for large Bay Area bank

Call 210-6158

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Want an exciting, challenging career with excellent pay, & benefits?

SKILLS • Type 40 wpm. • Willing to work unusual hours. • Experience working with the public. • Ability to perform several tasks at once.

Training is provided on the job and at the CHP Academy. Application deadline is 3/26/98.

For more info, stop by your local CHP office or call:

(707) 648-4144
ADA/EOE TT/TTD 800-735-2929

401 Help Wanted

FULL charge bookkeeper for recreational Marine in Alameda. Full-time benefits, send resume and salary history to: 2099 Grand Street, Alameda, 94501 or fax 510-865-1240

GENERAL OFFICE

Small Oakland business seeks general office person, part-time, (flexible hours) to possible full-time. Computer, typing, filing, and miscellaneous office duties. 8- 7/ hour, DOE. Call 510-861-9647, ask for Tammy or Spring.

HOSTPERSON Lunch time hostperson needed for busy downtown Oakland Restaurant. Wendy 836-3021 after 2 p.m.

HOUSECLEANERS needed for East Bay Area. Full-time and Part-time positions. Own transportation. Computerized cleaning system. Event tickets, 533-0612

HOUSECLEANING, part-time, experience and references required. \$8- \$9/ hour. Days and weekends. Fresh impressions, 510-832-7670.

HOUSEKEEPING: Merry Maids. No nights. \$175- \$250 week. Immediate openings. Bonus/ benefits available. Need car/ insurance, paid mileage. 595-7545.

Inside Sales

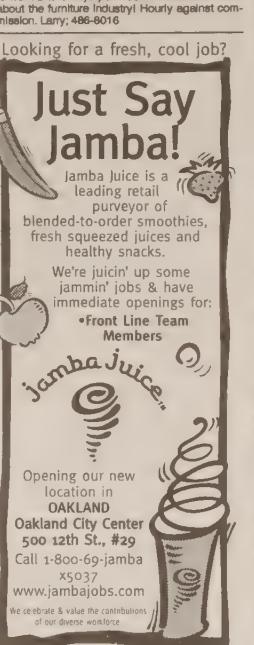
\$8 - \$17 HOURLY GUARANTEED
Minimum 1 year sales experience required, part-time, 5-8pm, Monday-Friday. Saturday mornings. Computerized calling system. Event tickets, 510-420-2078

Payroll

PAYROLL BILLER
Full-time technology/ office experience. Medical, HMO, third party, coding, AR, electronic billing. To begin immediately. Fax resume to: 510-832-1119 attention Meg.

LARGE contemporary furniture and mattress store in Berkeley seeks salesperson to work 2 to 3 days per week. A chance to learn about the furniture industry! Hourly against commission. Larry: 486-8016

Looking for a fresh, cool job?



MACHINE Operator, Manufacturing, Production, Sales Some Training, \$8 Hour. Laser Agency, 1430 Franklin, Oakland 983-9612

MICROSOFT Access97 programmer needed for small-medium term project at home-based office. Part-time, flexible days/ hours, weekdays only. Must be on site. Redwood Heights, Oakland 510-482-1800

MONTCLAIR Orthodontic Office looking for receptionist 4 days per week. Dental experience helpful but not necessary. You are good with people, energetic, and computer oriented please call Gina at 510-482-0600

OPENING for a dental office in Oakland. Call 510-568-1200

RECEPTIONIST/ OFFICE ASSISTANT
Full-time position to answer phones and do general office work. \$7/ hour, benefits. Fax resume to 510-635-0951 or mail to: Glass Pak, P.O. Box 14046, Oakland, 94614.

RECEPTIONIST/ OFFICE ASSISTANT
Full-time position to answer phones and do general office work. \$7/ hour, benefits. Fax resume to 510-635-0951 or mail to: Glass Pak, P.O. Box 14046, Oakland, 94614.

RECEPTIONIST Busy medical office needs reliable cheerful self-starter. Full-time, benefits. Send resume to: 445 30th Street, Oakland 94609 or fax to: 510-835-1626

RECEPTIONIST/ Office, phones, type, word-processor, figures, training \$1,387/ Berkeley Laser Agency, 1430 Franklin, Oakland 983-9612.

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Continued from page 3

ley can not legally fund the purchase of needles. NEED pieces together the remaining \$28,000 it spends on the 6000 syringes it distributes weekly to around 100 clients through private donations, grants from sources including the Tides Foundation, AIDS Walk and

North American Syringe Exchange Network, and benefits, such as the one held last Friday.

Berkeley's City Council and its Community Health Commission would like that city to be able to fund the cost of syringes. The City Council is currently working with City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque to investigate ways Berkeley can pay for syringes without incur-

ring legal problems or can challenge the California law prohibiting the use of public money for syringes. "The City Council has recognized that something needs to be done," said Health Commissioner Lisa Feuchtbauer.

Berkeley is studying the funding structures of other cities, such as San Francisco and Santa Clara, that are actively involved in financing

needle exchange programs. Mayor Shirley Dean reports that the staff of the City Attorney's office is currently "talking to anybody and everybody" to uncover relevant information regarding needle exchange funding.

In its initial days in 1990, NEED had provided safe sex supplies and education out of a vacant lot at University and San Pablo Av-

enes, according to John Sharpshandler, who has been a NEED volunteer since its inception. He said clients who wanted to exchange needles were sent around the corner to see "a couple with a baby stroller."

In 1991, Berkeley police arrested one NEED's volunteers, Scott Hale, who is now a member of Berkeley's Health Com-

mission. Ever since, the group has provided funding.

However, Berkeley's Health Commission has already imposed restrictions. The city money for NEED by public health "state of the city" every two weeks.

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Get 'Intrigued' with America

By Arnold Wechter
and Marion Wechter
We're in a patriotic mood and would like to purchase a sedan made in the U.S.A., we recommend you take a look at the Automobile Intrigue.

Figures show that Americans are buying mid-size sedans in large numbers and Detroit is trailing in imports. Toyota's not on the list in '97 with

BMW has been designed by General Motors cars that will change your opinion of mid-size sedans. The Intrigue could do just as good-looking offering decent road handling and ample seating for four passengers.

Intrigue replaces the Supreme in the Olds and eventually will be the Eighty-Eight. It probably remembers the Supreme was nation's leader in sedan sales. It may be only skin if a car is going to sit on your driveway for six years you

See INTRIGUE on page 2

Knowing the price of other mid-size sedans, the Intrigue is priced very competitively. Our test car, a top-of-the-line GL model, had a base price of \$22,100; with options, including leather trim, \$24,370 including destination charges.



The Intrigue could change your opinion of domestic mid-size sedans. It is a good-looking vehicle offering decent power, good handling and comfortable seating for four or five passengers.

Well, Mr. K, it's sure been nice!

By Arnold Wechter
North American Auto
Writers Syndicate

Expect to see less of the smiling Japanese gentleman, Mr. K, and his lovable fox terrier. Nissan Division has decided Mr. K is a fine fellow and a

favorite of TV viewers, but he doesn't sell many cars or trucks.

The next wave of national TV spots for the Nissan Altima is minus Mr. K. The spots return to the make's earlier position of "affordable luxury." The affordable luxury theme was aban-

doned during the Mr. K branding push. Mr. K will also be missing from ads pushing Nissan's midsize Maxima and its new Frontier truck. The new ads emphasize features of the vehicles. Tom Petty, president of the TBWA Chiat/Day ad agency

and world-wide account director for Nissan, said it still hasn't been decided on "how to use Mr. K in the future." The "Enjoy the Ride" campaign failed to boost

See WECHTER on page 3

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Intrigue

Continued from page 1

Standard features included such items as traction control, anti-lock 4-wheel brakes, remote door locks and dual zone air conditioning. Japanese imports with like features and powertrain will cost up to \$29,000.

Unlike its sister sedans, the Pontiac Grand Prix and Buick Regal, Oldsmobile does not offer a supercharged version of the 3800 V-6.

If you're a member of the lead foot group, then GM has something fitting your needs.

The 3800 V-6 is a modernized version of an old pushrod engine. It is smooth and comparatively quiet. It puts out 195 bhp at 5200 rpm and 220 ft/lbs of torque at 4000 rpm.

Don't put down the base 3800 V-6. It will go from 0 to 60 mph in eight seconds. This means it will allow you to enter crowded freeways safely and passing slower cars will be a pleasure rather than providing a feeling of apprehension. The engine is

electronically limited to a top speed of 126 mph.

The 4-speed electronically-controlled, automatic 4-speed transmission, the powertrain is a pleasure to operate.

The shifts are imperceptible in part-throttle opera-

security.

The suspension system has been completely revised to provide an agile but smooth ride — neither too harsh nor too soft.

Marion, who first drove the car at its press introduction last year, told us: "I told

you that you would like it." She pointed out the car's suspension system provides predictable tracking, acceptable body roll and good isolation on bad roads.

The variable power assist steering is certainly adequate if not outstanding. We found the front bucket seats to offer a good support and comfort.

Two normal-sized adults should find the rear bench seat comfortable. Three, however, will be slightly crowded.

Instrumentation is just about what you would expect in a family sedan. The instrument panel is placed for easy viewing by the driver and the gauges are analog.

There is a speedo, tach, odometer and trip odo plus temperature and fuel gauges. Two stalks off the steering column operate all the major controls — including the headlights.

Our test car had the sound system with secondary controls on the steering wheel. We liked that they were placed below the wheel spokes.

In other GM cars we found our self accidentally changing stations and volume accidentally because the controls were too high on the wheel.

There are dual controls for the heating system which makes for pleasant relations between couples on long drives.

For those who rate a car by the number of cup holders, the Intrigue is right up there, offering four — two in the back and two up front.

Oldsmobile's designers and engineers have done an excellent job in providing GM with a car that can go head-to-head with all those imports. The Intrigue certainly deserves a look by prospective buyers seeking a car in its class.

tion The engine is also quite economical. The EPA claims it should get 19 mpg around town and 30 mpg on the road.

Our test car did not reach these figures. It averaged 18.0 mpg in conditions evenly divided between highway and city driving.

Oldsmobile reportedly will get first shot at GM's new, 4-valve, all-aluminum V-6 which will debut in the next year or two and is set to go in the Intrigue.

One thing that impressed both of us was the structural rigidity of the test car. It is rock steady and this provided us with a feeling of

Oldsmobile Intrigue specifications

- Type: four-door sedan
- Base price: \$22,100, as tested: \$24,370
- Options on out test car included:
 - 1. Leather trim seating areas (\$995);
 - 2. Autobahn package: P225/60R16 H-rated tires and heavy-duty brakes (\$230);
 - 3. AM/FM audio system with cassette, compact disk and automatic tone control (\$170);
 - 4. California emission equipment (\$170);
 - 5. Steering wheel touch controls for radio functions (\$125);
 - Destination charge (\$550);
 - Engine: V-6 with cast iron heads and block, transversely mounted, front drive;
 - Displacement: 231 cu.in./3800 cc;
 - Horsepower: 195 bhp @ 5200 rpm;
 - Torque: 220 ft/lbs @ 4000 rpm;
 - Transmission: four-speed electronically controlled automatic;
 - Steering: rack-and-pinion with variable-power assist;
 - Brakes: 10.8-in. vented front discs, solid 10.9-in. rear discs with anti-lock braking system (ABS);
 - Wheelbase: 109.0 in.;
 - Overall length: 195.6 in.;
 - Width: 73.6 in.;
 - Height: 56.6 in.;
 - Curb weight: 3,580 lbs.;
 - Track, front/rear: 62.1/61.7 in.
 - Fuel capacity: 18.0 gallons;
 - EPA rating: 19 mpg, city, 30 mpg, highway.

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Auto

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Man and his 1935 Bentley constant companions

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

Having long wanted a pre-World War II automobile, Dr. Max Rubin's opportunity finally presented itself in 1984. An Austin, Texas man was ready to sell his 1935 Bentley. The handsome right-hand drive automobile was fitted with a Salmon & Sons all-weather four-door convertible sedan body.

Before settling on the Bentley, Rubin had looked at a few Rolls-Royce automobiles. "I was too young for a Rolls-Royce," he decided, whereas the Bentley was just right. Rubin flew to Texas, saw the car, bought it and returned to his Washington, D.C., home to await the arrival of his acquisition.

Shortly thereafter, the all-black Bentley rolled into town on the back of a truck and was promptly unloaded. Rubin still recalls how he anxiously climbed into the unfamiliar car, sat behind the four-spoke steering wheel, and quickly flooded the engine.

A rescue call to a local veteran Bentley owner was made, and after a quick

course in "Bentley 101," the problem was resolved and the big six-cylinder engine started.

The wiring throughout the car was found to be in terrible condition, but with that deficiency corrected, the reliable Bentley became a daily driver. The floor-mounted hand brake and gearshift lever at the driver's right knee seemed natural, as did the mechanical brakes and steering from the right seat.

Within a brief time, car and owner became inseparable. Soon Rubin was regularly driving his new old car to work and on errands, however, he never raised the top.

Thankfully, the car arrived from Texas equipped with both left and right outside mirrors. "You can't live without the mirrors," Rubin said knowingly, after terrifying bouts with modern-day traffic.

One dark and dreary November day, he was driving home when rain began falling. He hurriedly put the well-worn top up and

continued on. The top blew off.

Rubin decided it was time to restore. Initially, he thought just a new top would fix things. Ultimately, a restoration owner pointed out wood framework supports the body was of replacement.

The fact that his Bentley was on the collapsing convexes of the need for restoration. Everything was gone from the 10 1/2- on the headlights and metal-shrouded supports the bottom-hinged

The careful car by Salmon & Sons a century before had adulterated by vandals over the years.

At first glance the some fabric top appears formidable when lowering it. How clever mechanical & Sons devised a whereby the engine inserted into a fitting

See BENTLEY

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deas need more than steam, they need cash

drive, She Said

Dense McCullage

Michael P. Lambert

lived West with his

degree from the

University of New

England.

His second

was in electrical

engineering.

You might think when

it started coming up

ways to clean up

automotive pollution in

Los Angeles that he would

think electric. Wrong.

The 36-year-old Lambert

buys houses to pay the

while he schemes and

reams of steam. He has

a company called

Lambert-Bailey Steam Automotive Corp. Mention steam to most people and they think "old." Even steam locomotives are gone from the rails except as tourist attractions.

Perhaps some of those people have seen the old Stanley Steamer in the lobby of the Stanley (yes, related) Hotel in Estes Park, Colorado.

That's not only old, it's huge. Maybe they've seen Jay Leno and one of his steam cars on television. That's not only old and huge, it's funny.

Anyone attending the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance last August probably saw a rather striking collection of steam cars. But Mike Lambert sees steam as the future. Its advantages, he says, are many.

First, steam is clean — clean running with no lead acid batteries to dispose of. Nor does steam have some of the drawbacks of electric vehicles, with their limited range, power, near uselessness in cold weather, and the need to suckle electricity from a heavy-duty power source every so often.

Electric vehicles serve well as second cars for short commutes or shopping errands.

Drivers who want a single car to answer all their needs, long and short range, with the ease and availability of refueling now experienced with gasoline can't get that from an EV. They can from steam, according to Lambert.

Independent engineering companies have evaluated Lambert's plans and confirm

the feasibility of his ideas — both mechanically and financially. With steam, car owners would still have power windows, locks, air conditioning and audio systems.

Indeed, and this is the stunner: they could probably have the very same car they have right now. Lambert says his steam system would require only a relatively simple conversion of the existing engine. "Two men and one day" is his claim.

In simplest terms, the conversion entails the removal of the internal combustion engine parts, the cylinder head, and all the carburetion and ignition and exhaust equipment. This is replaced with modular heads and special valves, a ceramic burner, plumbing and com-

puter controls. The radiator is replaced with a more efficient condenser to rapidly return the water used in its phase change as steam back to water again to be reused.

See CASH on page 6

Wechter

Continued from page 1

Nissan sales in the U.S. Sales dropped 4.7 percent in 1997 from 1996.

Silver Seraph

Rolls-Royce will introduce its first new sedan since 1980 in the U.S. in March. The suggested retail price will be \$216,400.

It will be powered by a 322-horsepower V-12 engine from BMW and will bear a new nameplate, the Silver Seraph, after "an angel of the highest order." It replaces the \$189,000 Silver Spur as a 1999 model.

The Geneva auto show on March 3 will be the site where the Silver Seraph will be formally introduced.

Bentley checks in

In May, the Bentley Arnage will follow the Seraph, said Dean Miller, president of the company's U.S. sales arm.

Successor to the Bentley Turbo RT, the Arnage is powered by a twin-turbo, 4.4-liter BMW V-8 providing 350 horsepower. It will be priced at \$199,900.

Chrysler looking around

Chrysler, the smallest Big Three player in the overseas market, may be seeking to buy all or part of another auto company, according to chairman Robert Eaton. In a speech to the Economic Club of Detroit, Eaton said: "Obviously, we're looking around, and if the right thing materializes, we'll be a player."

It is clear that Chrysler is taking a greater interest in operations outside North America. No elaborations on Eaton's remark has been available from the company. In January, Eaton told stock analysts that he expects some consolidation in the first half of 1998.

He said Chrysler hopes to boost its business in Europe, where it has the smallest operations among domestic auto firms.

Samsung seeking

Sources in Seoul claim Samsung Motors Co., a startup Korean automaker, has been talking to Ford, Chrysler and BMW AG. Samsung announced in December it wanted to manufacture 80,000 vehicles in 1998, but the Korean economic crisis may cause it to abandon auto production, the company stated.

Soft sales cause GM production cut

Auto Shorts

By Arnold Wechter
North American
Auto Writers Syndicate

DETROIT, Mich.—First-quarter production at GM's North American factories has been cut 1.6 percent from its previous plan. The auto maker cited soft sales of small cars such as Saturns and the Chevrolet Cavalier, Prizm and Metros.

It is now planned to build 1.39 million cars and trucks in the first quarter, 3.7 percent fewer than the 1.44 million GM built in the first quarter of 1997. GM said it plans to cut 20,000 cars from its first quarter estimate and

increase truck production by 3,000 units.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Evidence from an internal General Motors product document indicates that the Buick Riviera is near the end of the road as a luxury coupe. The document indicated that a Riviera redesign for the 2000 model year has been cancelled.

However, the Riviera still could merge on a product line with the 2000-model Oldsmobile Aurora, possibly as a 4-door sedan, GM sources claim. Buick dealers expressed displeasure about the demise of the Riviera.

If the Riviera was dropped, dealers would have only four nameplates, down from eight in 1990. Riviera sales are low

with just 14,089 sold last year, down 32 percent from 1996. Dealers claim the Riviera name adds value to the franchise.

DETROIT, Mich.—Saturn Corp., stung by a recent downward trend in the sub-compact market, may turn to a daily rental fleet for the first time since the nameplate was introduced in 1990.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car executives has been meeting with Saturn officials about the possibility of moving their cars onto rental lots.

A Saturn spokesman says the auto maker is proceeding cautiously and conferring closely with its dealers on the subject. "Our overriding issue is that we have to

See SHORTS on page 6

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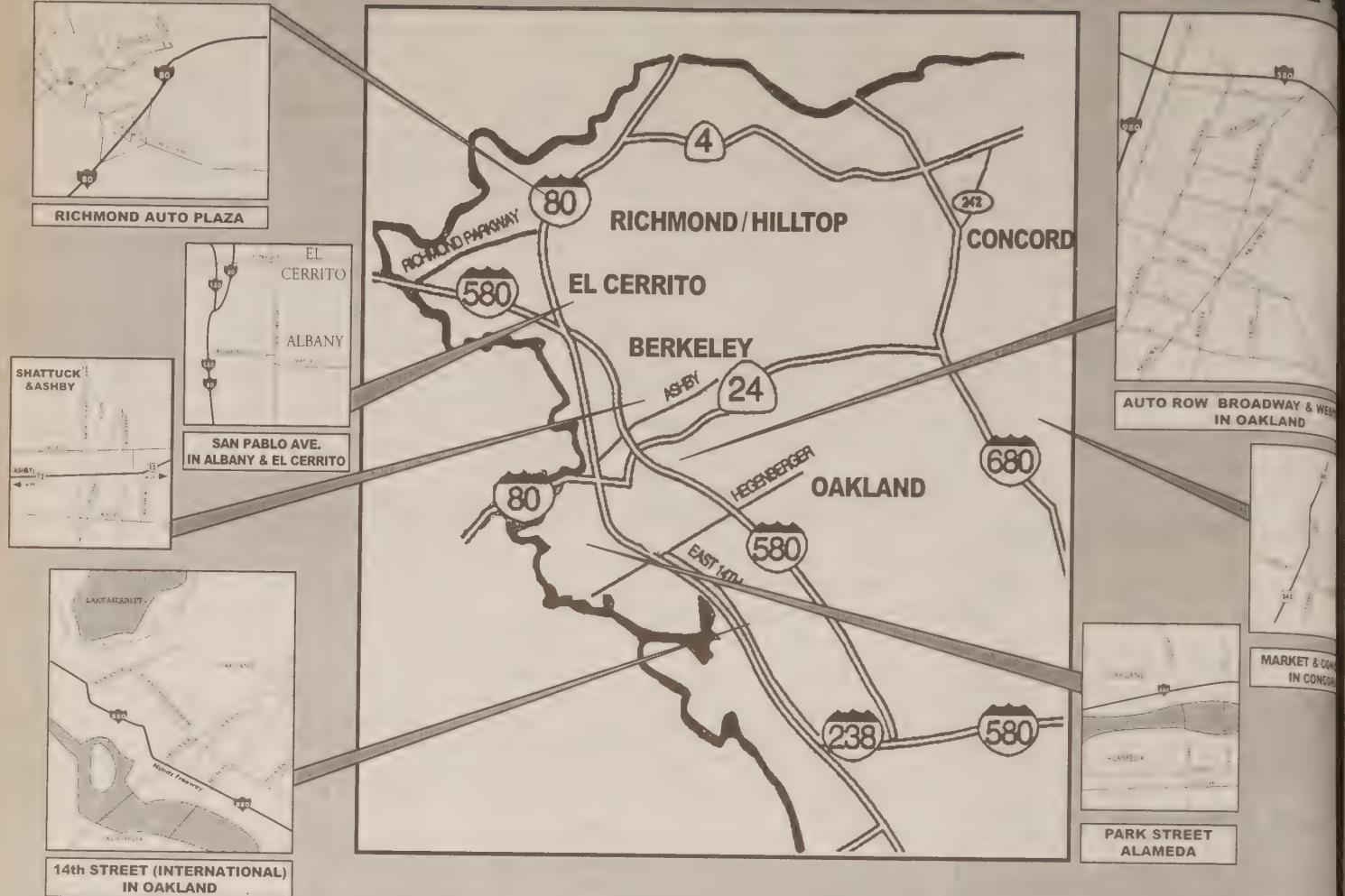
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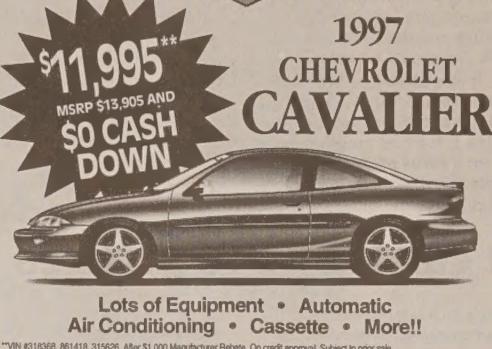
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Just what does that engine light mean?

Auto Q & A

By Todd Hayes

Q: I have two problems with my 1991 Buick LeSabre with 99,000 miles on the odometer. First, the check-engine light has been coming on. The service people tell me there is no malfunction and not to worry about it. Secondly, whenever the fuel level is below a quarter tank, the engine will sometimes start sputtering or stall unless the tank is refilled. I think the gauge is OK because it doesn't take the normal amount to get the tank full, indicating there is still fuel in the tank. What are your thoughts?

Lisa Johnson -Houston TX

A: The check engine-light indicates the vehicle's computer has detected a malfunction. The light is turned on to alert the driver and a trouble code is stored in the computer's memory indicating the nature malfunction. Further testing is necessary to determine the specific cause. See your dealer.

Your Buick's fuel starvation could indicate a mispositioned tank sending unit, allowing the pick up to pull in air when the fuel level drops to a quarter tank. As outlined in Mitchell On-Demand technical service bulletin No. 92-6E-19, a new strainer is available that will stay submerged in fuel and prevent starvation. Be sure the tank is cleaned of any dirt buildup when replacing the strainer. Good luck.

Q: I have a 1989 Ford Taurus Wagon with a 3.8 liter V6. On cold mornings, the car is very difficult to start. When driving on the freeway the car runs OK but in traffic the car stalls and sometimes will not go over 20 m.p.h. The car has had a tune-up and fuel injection service. Any suggestions? Jack Williams — Houston TX.

A: A Sable visited one of my shops recently. It also was stalling and creating a power loss. After checking for vacuum leaks and faulty wiring, a technician installed a temporary fuel pressure gauge and drove the car until the symptoms returned.

It was discovered the fuel pump was failing. A new fuel pump and filter provided the cure. If the fuel pressure on your Taurus proves acceptable, check for a faulty E.G.R.

(Exhaust Gas Recirculation) valve, distributor pickup or module, or a failing computer or sensor. See a certified technician for help.

Q: I have a 1992 Chevrolet Cavalier Z24. The car has 60,000 miles on it and during that time the front brake pads have been replaced five times. Is there a reason for this? I have been using low-cost pads figuring the more expensive ones would wear out just as quickly. What are your views on this? Ed Moore — Houston TX.

A: For maximum brake pad life and performance, use premium brake parts. Driving conditions play a major role in the life span of the brake pads. Driving in stop-and-go traffic wears the pads much quicker than highway driving.

Some ways to extend brake pad life is to avoid sudden stops, keep a constant pace, avoid tailgating and make sure your foot is not resting on the brake pedal when unnecessary.

Finally, have a certified technician inspect your brake system to be sure all is OK. If the rear brakes are not performing up to par, the front brakes may wear prematurely. Hope this helps.

Submit your automotive questions to:

Todd Hayes
c/o Mobile Car Care,
14340 Torrey Chase Blvd.,
Suite 180,
Houston, Texas, 77014.
See Todd's column and
other automotive articles on
the Web at www.naaw.com

Shorts

continued from page 3

continue to protect the brand equity and value, Saturn spokesman Greg Martin.

STUTTGART, Germany—Deliveries of the Class Mercedes-Benz have resumed, ending a three-month suspension ordered after the car flipped in a safety test.

Mercedes-Benz re-engineered the car at a cost of \$200 million to provide the car with a lower, wider stance; the company also added an electronic stability control system as standard equipment.

Orders of this class of automobile have rebounded to 120,000 from 100,000 at the end of November, according to Mercedes-Benz. The A-Class Mercedes-Benz is sold in here in North America.

Easy reminders when car trouble strikes

Some of the most common car problems, although easily dealt with, can be worrisome when road or weather conditions are unfavorable. Knowing exactly what you can do yourself and when you should call for help is important.

The following questions and answers are taken from Shell Oil Company's Answer Books #1 and #7. If you are interested in Shell's group of answer books, write to Shell Answers, Shell Oil Company, P.O. Box 4681, Houston, TX 77210, or call 1-800-23-SHELL.

Q: What's the right way to get a jump-start?

A: Have good jumper cables, for one thing. Good cables have sturdier jaws and more strands of better conduction wire. If you have a cheap set, you can improve

them by going under the plastic sheath where cable meets grip and squeezing the connection tight with a pair of pliers.

Get the two cars nose to nose, or parallel—but not touching. Place both cars in Park (neutral for manual transmission), engage the emergency brake, and turn off the ignitions and all accessories. Be sure both batteries have the same voltage.

1. Take either red jaw and attach it to the dead battery's positive(+) terminal.

2. Connect the other red jaw to the positive terminal on the good battery.

3. Now take one of the black jaws and attach it to the good battery's negative(−) terminal.

4. Attach the other black jaw to an unpainted metal surface under the stalled

car's hood that is not near the carburetor or battery and is not aluminum.

Make sure the cables are clear of any fans or belts. Start the booster car, then try to start the stalled one. Still no luck? Let the booster car's engine run for five minutes with the cable connected. Now try again.

Remove the clips in reverse order—last one is the first off. Keep the motor of the formerly dead car running. If the motor is turned off too soon, the battery may lose its charge again.

Q: What's the safest way to change a tire?

A: Your owner's manual is the best source on how to change a tire. Here are some general rules.

Park on level ground, away from oncoming traffic. Always block the wheels at the end of the car opposite the end with the flat, to keep the car from rolling. Other steps to take before you jack up the car: Put the car in Park (or in gear if you have a

See TROUBLE on page 7

Bentley

continued from page 2

the left rear of the top. After the latches above the windshield are released, the crank is turned and, guided by the functional landau bars, the top is easily lowered by one man turning the crank.

The 3.5-liter engine was good before and is better now, running as silently as advertised. Sixteen thermosytatically controlled louvers ahead of the radiator in conjunction with 24 stationary louvers on each side of the engine hood help keep the engine running cool.

A pair of S.U. carburetors feed fuel to the thirsty engine. Rubin reports mileage figures of about 13 to 15 mpg. Although the speedometer registers speeds up to 110 mph, Rubin said, "I've only had it up to 90 mph. The trouble is stopping."

The mechanically operated brakes on the typically heavy Bentley bind the 5.50 x 18-inch Dunlop tires mounted on 70-spoke wire wheels. Each wheel has three evenly spaced posts on which weighted washers can be stacked in order to balance the tires.

When perfection is achieved, a cap is placed over the stack of weights and then locked into place.

"It's a total pain in the neck to balance the tires," Rubin said with a tone of voice that suggests he pays someone else to complete the chore.

A Duesenberg-like scallop in the metal sweeps down from the long engine hood and across the front door before gracefully curving back toward the front just above the Bentley's running board.

When repainting time came, Rubin decided that a dark burgundy color in that inset would complement the burgundy piping on the black top.

The two chrome trumpet horns are loud enough to clear the way for his handsome chariot.

If you have an antique car of interest to "Classic Classics" readers, write to Vern Parker detailing its merits. (Please, no inquiries about selling or buying vehicles.)

His address:
Vern Parker
2221 Abbot'sford Drive,
Vienna, VA
22218

Cash

continued from page 3

It's the power of steam introduced into the cylinder under high pressure that gives a piston its power stroke instead of the mini explosion of gasoline vapors sparked by a plug inside the cylinder.

In short, combustion is present, but in an efficient burner external to the engine, not internal. Because the external burner burns the fuel completely, and not inside the engine, no noxious or toxic gases can escape into the atmosphere.

Unnecessary are catalytic converters, high-octane fuel, and preheating to lessen pollution. This is simplicity itself!

Indeed, though your newly converted steam car could use the gas from the same pump that you use now, it doesn't have to.

The cheapest gas, diesel, alcohol, natural gas or even waste oils would be fuel to this system. That's the good news.

The bad news is, because it can use nearly anything, no single industry has a vested interest in seeing that the Lambert-Bailey steam conversion gets built.

Mike Lambert is looking for capital. He figures that something around \$250,000 will build a conversion system, maybe double that to build a steam car from scratch.

"Zero pollution without compromise" is his motto.

Interested? His phone number is (213) 850-7732.

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Traction, cold temp, in-dash CD, 15k miles. \$14,995

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Heavy-duty chassis expands gas motorhome market

Rolling Homes

Jeff Johnston

Gasoline-powered Class A motorhomes that cost less than \$100,000 are the solid

gets too big, it's easy to exceed the chassis GVWR, resulting in overloaded motorhomes. Some manufacturers built overloaded coaches by accident, and others simply didn't give a hoot and built whatever they darn well wanted.

It's possible, and practical,

frame to provide extra wheelbase length to better accommodate the longer coach body.

Frame stretching, like tag axle use, requires precision manufacturing standards, and inaccurate welding or assembly can cause headaches down the road. Tags

with specific component elements designed for that modification, should a manufacturer wish to increase the wheelbase.

The Chevrolet chassis is powered by the 7.4-Liter (454 CID) V-8 big-block engine rated at 265 horsepower at 4,000 rpm and 390 ft/lb of torque at 2,800 rpm.

It's backed by an Allison AT542 4-speed automatic transmission that includes a transmission-mounted hydraulic auto-apply parking brake.

Ford's new Super Duty F53 chassis uses the Triton 6.8-Liter V-10 engine backed by Ford's new 4R100 4-speed automatic with overdrive. The V-10 is rated

at 275 hp at 4,250 rpm and 410 ft/lb at 2,650 rpm.

The new Ford models include an 18,000-pound GVWR chassis with 7,000-pound GAWR front and 11,000-pound GAWR rear axles, in 178-, 190-, 208- and 228-inch wheelbase versions; and a 20,500-pound GVWR chassis with a 7,000-pound GAWR front and 13,500-pound GAWR rear axles, in 208- and 228-inch models.

These new chassis will enable coach builders to design larger motorhomes with greater cargo capacity, improved ride, handling, steering and braking. There'll be some exciting new coaches on the showroom floors, rigs that put a whole new meaning on the phrase "getting there is half the fun."



Ford and Chevrolet have new heavy-duty chassis with higher GVWR. The heavier chassis open up a whole new realm of possibilities for gas-powered motor homes.

to increase a chassis' GVWR by adding a tag axle. Take for example, a Ford chassis with a 17,000-pound GVWR and an 11,000-pound rear axle gross axle weight rating. Adding a tag axle with a 4,000-pound GAWR, can rerate a chassis 21,000-pounds GVWR because that tag axle has provided extra weight-carrying capacity.

Tag axles have their drawbacks. While they do supply extra aft-end support and they can help stabilize a coach that's too long for its basic chassis, it's also possible to install them incorrectly such that long-term axle alignment and tire wear problems exist in a coach so modified. In many cases of tag axle use, the coach builder has also stretched the

and stretching also add cost. The new GM and Ford chassis models can help eliminate all of those overloading- and undersize-related problems, as well as offer a variety of highly desirable motorhome features. Both chassis are similar in that they offer four-wheel power disc brakes with four-wheel anti-lock brakes as standard equipment.

Both chassis use solid axles front and rear, leaf-spring suspension at all four corners and have standard equipment anti-sway bars. Straight, flat-topped frame rails are now standard, which will make it easier for the coach manufacturers to add the motorhome bodies.

Both chassis also are designed for easy stretching,

at 275 hp at 4,250 rpm and 410 ft/lb at 2,650 rpm.

The new Ford models

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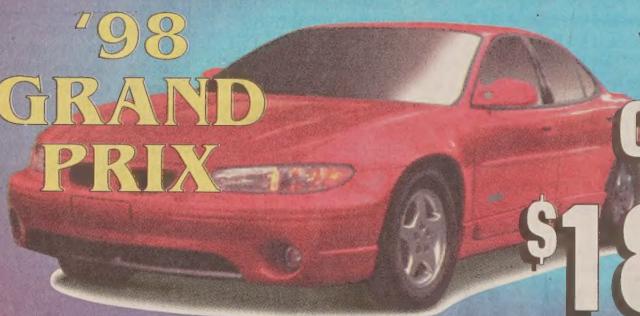
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